A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY
February 12, 2009
Volume XLIX Number 15

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THE SPECTATOR

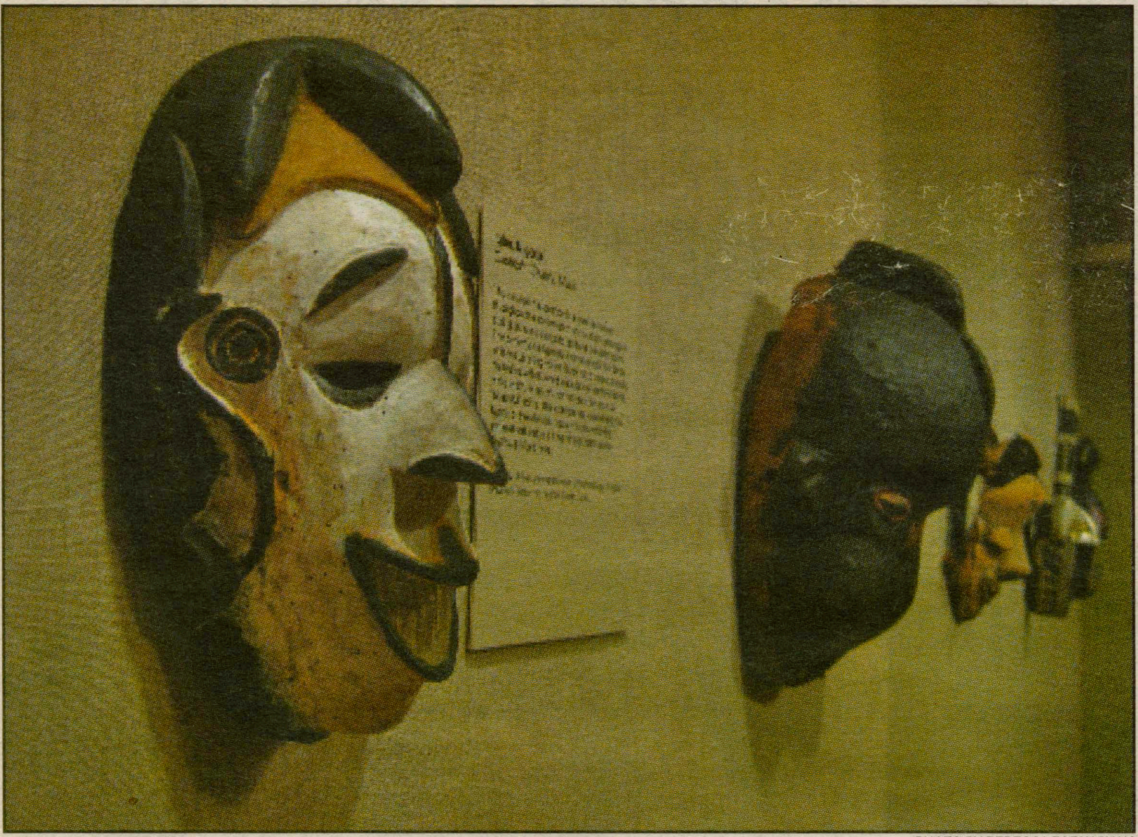


PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10

The "African Masks and Masquerade Exhibit" is taking place this month in Emerson Gallery.

Afternoon Delight Receives Funding

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

In a move that changes the landscape of Hamilton's student-led publications, the Media Board has authorized funding for the humor handbill *Afternoon Delight*. Originally started as a guerilla humor sheet by Jeff Escalante '11, Andrew Portuguese '11, and Chris Smith '11, last semester *Afternoon Delight* was banned by the Media Board from using Burke Library paper to print issues. The publication's creators then decided to pursue funding from the Media Board so they could continue publishing.

"We needed to be on the board, and we needed approval," said Portuguese. "Originally, Jeff showed us this layout he had, and in one night we wrote four or five completely ridiculous things. We put it out in Commons and just kept going. We did it a few times and people started to tell us they liked it, so we kept it up. Tangential ideas just keep popping out."

However, the trio quit publishing after they were told that they were possibly breaking the code for student publications set forth by the Media Board. "They have a lot of rules, and apparently we broke most of them," said Smith. They then crafted a presentation for the Media Board in an attempt to secure funding for the publication.

The original proposal, however, left some serious questions in the minds of the Media Board leadership. "At the first meeting, they got railed with questions about why they needed their own publication," said Lauren Moon '10, member-at-large of the Media Board. "Their answers didn't really satisfy the board, so we denied them funding." The scatological humor used in previous issues of *Afternoon Delight* also stood in the way of funding. "The reason why the Media Board had to catch up with them was to tell them that they couldn't print whatever they wanted."

Afternoon Delight's founders, however, did not take their initial rejection to heart. "We put together this proposal, we

see ***Publication****, page 2*

Black History Month Honored with Array of Campus Events

by Kerry Q. Coughlin '11
News Writer

In 1926, African American scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson had a vision of a celebration of Black History. This celebration would ensure that the contributions of minorities were not overlooked and raise awareness about the important roles that blacks have played throughout the history of our country. Over 90 years later, this celebration has expanded into Black History Month.

During February, organizations such as the Black and Latino Student Union (BLSU) work to bring a number of events to campus to educate and shed light on different aspects of black history. "BLSU decided to organize various social events that would capture Black History in different ways," said Hannah Roth '11, social chair and secretary of BLSU.

An ongoing event throughout the month is the "African Masks and Masquerade Exhibition" taking place in the Emerson Gallery. This exhibition is composed of three exhibits: *West African Masquerade* (photographs by Phyllis Galembo), *Masked* (two videos by Kenya-born artist Ingrid-MwangiRobertHutter), and *The Art of Transformation* (African Masks from the collection of the Longyear Museum of Anthropology at Colgate University). In addition, every Thursday at noon there will be a talk in the Emerson Gallery about the exhibits. Susanna White, associate director and curator of Emerson Gallery, will be giving a talk on Thursday, Feb. 12.

The following Thursday, Visiting Associate Professor of Religious Studies S. Brent

see ***History****, page 2*

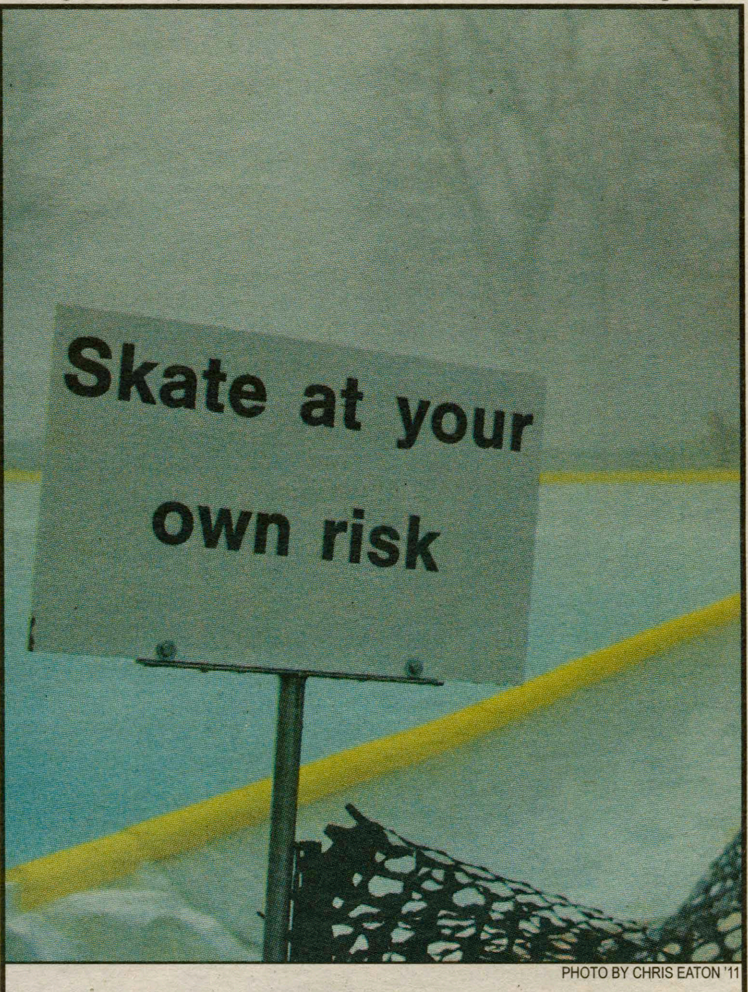


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

The skating rink officially opened Wednesday under weather conditions of 50 degrees and rain. *See Rink, page 2*

RecycleMania Reduces Refuse

WWW.RECYCLEMANIA.ORG

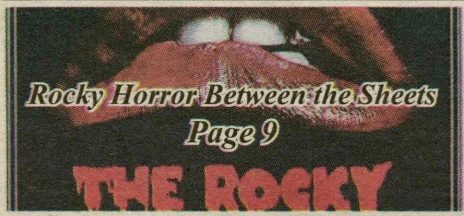
by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

For the fifth consecutive year, Hamilton is taking part in RecycleMania, a friendly competition between colleges and universities in an effort to decrease waste and increase recycling on college campuses across the nation. Hamilton's effort is being led by the Recycling Task Force, a group of students dedicated to reducing waste and supporting green initiatives on the Hill. They are advised by Terry Hawkridge, assistant director of grounds, horticulture and arboretum for Physical Plant.

This year, Hawkridge says Hamilton's efforts will be particularly focused on reducing the waste of white paper. To that end, the Task Force has circulated a Green Office Pledge in buildings across campus. The pledge includes promises to recycle paper wastes appropriately, to limit the use of excess paper, and to print double-sided when possible. Participating members have the large waste containers at their workstations replaced with much smaller ones in an effort to become conscious of waste.

Faculty, administrators and staff from Siuda House, Spencer House, the Career and Development Center, Buttrick Hall, the

see ***RecycleMania****, page 16*



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Hamilton Presents Hill Card to Town

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

This week Hamilton College continued efforts to take the Hill Card down the Hill and into local stores. Representatives presented the concept along with the results of the campus-wide Hill Card survey to the Board of Directors of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

According to the organization's web site, "The Clinton Chamber of Commerce is organized for the purpose of advancing the retail, commercial, industrial, and civic interest of Clinton and its surrounding area." The Board of Directors meets once a month.

"The purpose of Wednesday's presentation is to familiarize merchants with the program, gauge their interest and answer their questions," said Michael Debraggio, executive director of communications. "It is primarily an informational meeting similar to the one that was held on campus with Student Assembly last month."

Concerns that the merchants might have include the cost of installing the system versus its benefits, and the difficulty of card compatibility when students want to use it to pay for food deliveries. Hamilton will be putting the decision about whether to adopt the Hill Card in the hands of the individual business owners, as they will have to pay for installing the system.

"There is a cost associated with participating in the program, so merchants will have to do their own cost-benefit analysis. We simply want to make the option available to them," said Debraggio.

The option of participating in the Hill Card off-campus program will be available to all Clinton Chamber of Commerce businesses and also to non-Chamber businesses that students indicated in the survey that they were interested in. Target, for example is outside of Clinton and not a participant in the Chamber of Commerce, but will have the option of installing Hill Card readers as well.

LOGO COURTESY AFTERNOON DELIGHT

New Publication on Campus

*from **Publication**, page 1*

figured out exactly what we were doing," said Portuguese. For two weeks, they worked on revamping their initial proposal, and met with nearly every member of the Media Board individually in an attempt to secure funding. "They contacted us all, and met with nearly all of us. I was really impressed with how much they revamped their proposal," said Moon. "They were the only publication we can think of that have resubmitted after being denied funding."

According to Media Board Chair Eric Kuhn '09, "What changed the board members' minds was not only that we saw an extreme level of dedication from Andrew, Jeff and Chris, but that their publication would be of value to Hamilton students, and be unique on the tables of Commons."

The publication was nearly universally successful at convincing the Board: minus two abstentions, the 22 member Media Board voted unanimously to allocate $208 toward the printing of two issues of *Afternoon Delight* every week, beginning the first week of March.

The format of the publication is unlike anything else on campus, says Smith. "We're going to have a much more strict system. We're going to thoroughly edit the pieces. Even if what we're writing isn't serious, the system for copyediting them will be."

Skating Rink Opens

by Kate Moore '12
News Writer

The outdoor skating rink has finally been opened just in time for the unseasonably warm temperatures that have melted ice around campus. Though completion of the project was delayed by several weeks, members of Student Assembly and Physical Plant worked hard to get the rink ready as soon as weather permitted.

Now the wait is over. The rink officially opened Wednesday Feb. 10, and skaters can take to the ice daily from dawn until dusk. However, skaters will find that the ice is not sufficiently ready for use because of consecutive days of temperatures between 40 and 50 degrees. Currently, the future of the ice rink remains uncertain for this season. Even if the rink successfully refreezes soon, spring will inevitably come, melting the ice, and the rink will no longer be useable. "The rink is here to use so long as the weather stays cold," said Croft.

Earlier in the winter, multiple feet of snow and cold temperatures postponed the installation of ground stakes and side barriers. Next year, Physical Plant will begin constructing the rink in November or December to avoid this problem.

Interest in the rink has slowly deteriorated during the long wait, according to many students, but Students Assembly hopes students will have time to enjoy the newest campus attraction.

Black History Month Preview

*from **History**, page 1*

Rodriquez Plate will be giving a lecture on "Carnivals and Masquerades: Identities and Hidden Identities in Ritual Masks". And on February 26th, Hamilton student Ilana Carlin '09 will be presenting a lecture.

Another ongoing event throughout February will be Thursday night movies presented by the Black and Latino Student Union (BLSU). On Thursday, Feb. 12 the film *Jungle Fever* will be shown in SCCT 3040 at 7:00 p.m. According to the International Movie Database, the plot of the movie revolves around a black man's affair with a white girl and its repercussions. On the following Thursday, BLSU will be showing *American History X* at 7:00 p.m. in SCCT G027. All Black History Month events, including the film event, are open to all Hamilton community members.

On Monday, Feb. 16, BLSU will be holding an African Beats performance and workshop in the Events Barn. In addition to the performance, a drummer and his band will conduct a workshop that will teach students drumming techniques and recognize the importance of drumming and dance to African history.

The Office of the Dean of Students will be hosting a Black Inventions Exhibit on Tuesday, Feb. 17 in KJ Commons. The exhibit comes from a national touring museum, the Museum of Black Inventions and Innovations. According to its website, "The Black Inventions Exhibit was created to develop racial pride, promote racial understanding, and remedy public ignorance about Black inventors, achievers, pioneers and scientists."

BLSU and The Brothers are having a Poetry Slam night on Tuesday, Feb. 24 in Opus 1. "We are inviting kids from the Underground Café to come and participate as well, as we are raising money for that organization," says Roth. The event is open to all Hamilton students, who can either perform or just watch and listen.

Concluding Black History Month will be an event entitled "To Africa and Back", an exhibit, performance, and dance intended to enlighten audience members on the history of Africa. A representative from BLSU said, "The night will begin from the darkest moments of Black history and highlight many of the trials and successes that Blacks have gone through in the United States."

FebFest Events Draw Record Student Attendance

by Russ Doubleday '09
News Editor

PHOTO BY LEXI NISITA '12

Max Wall '10 gives Steve Rowe '09 a taste of chili at the FebFest Chili Cookoff, Saturday Feb. 7. The winning chili entitled "Dinosaur Medicine," was created by Steve Allinger '09 and John Tower '09.

This year's FebFest, taking place Feb. 7-14, has already brought several unforgettable events to the College, with more in store for later this week. From Ghostface Killah's performance to the Mr. Hamilton Contest today, FebFest has given the school many events to get excited about in the middle of winter.

The college community worked together to put on a variety of events during this past week. Among other groups, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) brought in both comedian Michael Ian Black and rapper Ghostface Killah, the intramural sports committee managed the snoccer (snow soccer) and snow football tournaments and Bon Appetit catered the midnight breakfast bar and the ice cream sundae bar.

Assistant Director of Student Activities Paul Ryan explained how FebFest was organized. "Jane Barnes '09 and Remi Gendron '09 were the two students responsible for putting together the entire schedule," explained Ryan. "[They had the task of] establishing a committee of students to assist in the running of FebFest, and reaching out to organizations to get more people involved." Neither Barnes nor Gendron could be reached for comment prior to print.

The full line-up of FebFest events this year has potentially brought out a record number of students. "While we don't have definitive counts, attendance appears to be up this year," said Ryan. "The committee has completely sold out of FebFest buttons, for the first time ever." There were 800 FebFest buttons for sale at the beginning of the week. The sell-out suggests more student involvement at the annual event than ever before. The button is required for admittance to several FebFest events.

Overall, Ryan has been impressed with both the events and management of FebFest 2009. "I think Jane and Remi have done a great job and from what I've heard from students has been very positive. You can't ask for much more than that."

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

Walking the Walk on Talking the Talk

Recently Hamilton College's oral communication standards have been under a routine review. This review raises the question of whether Hamilton's the standard of excellence in oral communication that Hamilton maintains is a reality. The college maintains under its "Academic Facts" that "Hamilton, a liberal arts college with an emphasis on individualized instruction and independent research, is a national leader in teaching effective writing and persuasive speaking." However, the inclusion of the topic of "persuasive speaking" begs the question: is Hamilton College really a leader in oral communication?

The college's oral communication mission maintains that "Nearly two centuries ago, Hamilton College began to distinguish itself as one of the nation's most prestigious and innovative liberal arts colleges by identifying its educational mission as the mastery of "rhetoric and elocution." That mission remains central to the College's educational philosophy today. It is evident not only in the campus-wide commitment to strong writing skills, but in the oral communication program, where students learn the speaking and critical-thinking skills that have produced some of the nation's most eminent diplomats, accomplished professionals, authoritative scholars and effective activists."

While the College can back up its claims of supporting effective writing with its inclusion of writing-intensive classes, what basis does it have for maintaining that its students graduate with a mastery of elocution? In the past, Hamilton required that all students take a rhetoric class as a requirement for graduation. This public speaking class ensured, much like Hamilton's current writing intensive-classes, that students at the college were instructed in the art of rhetoric and could prove some level of mastery of public speaking. Today, no such standard exists.

In reality there is only one full-credit public speaking class at Hamilton College, rhetorical act, offered to 18 students a semester by the communication department. Additionally, quarter-credit oral communication classes are offered but not required in the oral communication department; however students cannot minor or major in this field.

In a world where effective public speaking is a necessity the college should be doing more to prepare students in the field of public discourse and be able to back up its claims that Hamilton produces excellent public speakers. If equal emphasis is placed on both oral and written communication then why aren't there more oral intensive classes offered to Hamilton students? Offering more classes in public speaking or expanding the current classes in the oral communication department to one semester, half credit classes could aid in this endeavor.

If the college maintains that oral communication is one of its academic goals, then it should actively seek to incorporate it into the college's academic curriculum. Students should be provided with a forum to learn and be assessed on their oral communication skills in order to meet the standard of excellence that the college seeks.

Correction: Last week's Spectator incorrectly stated that the "Taste Don't Waste" program was an initiative put forth as a part of the RecycleMania campaign. This effort was actually made by Bon Appétit. As well, the information gathered by the Spectator staff from the official RecycleMania website was not up to date and thus misrepresented Hamilton's current progress in the initiative. The Spectator editorial board plans to keep the campus community accurately updated on Hamilton's progress as this initiative continues. For more information, please see "RecycleMania Reduces Refuse" on page 1, the New York State RecycleMania Standings on page 18 and the Letter to the Editor from the Recycling Task force on page 6.

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2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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OPINION

Technically Speaking

How to save resources and reduce our carbon footprint

by David Smallen
Vice President
Information Technology
Opinion Contributor

Hamilton is entering a difficult financial period. The solution in a difficult situation is not to just hunker down until things return to normal, but rather to think differently about the way we operate. The simplest way to change our behavior is to do less of what we already do, such as raising our thermostats, or going out to eat less frequently.

Recent suggestions in a Spectator survey were, for the most part, of this type. The difficult part about thinking differently is that it implies change, and change is unsettling–our natural inclination is to resist it. Perhaps a solution is to turn to our familiarity with technology in order to save institutional resources.

A recent Hamilton survey found that 98 percent of incoming students arrive on campus with a laptop computer. We also know that most students do not carry their computers with them during the day. How might we use these two pieces of information to think differently about computing on campus?

Hamilton owns over 1,700 computers. Over the last ten years, Hamilton has made significant investments in public computer labs (e.g., Burke Library, Beinecke Village, Writing Center, Afro Latin Cultural Center). There are now 75 computers in these facilities that are basically the same as the computers that students already own - I call them general purpose computers (this does not include the computers that have specialized software, such as those in the Multimedia Presentation Center or other labs in KJ and the Science Center). There are probably another 75 general purpose computers scattered around the campus in various classrooms.

If most students carried their personal computers with them during the day we could probably reduce the number of general purpose computers by at least half.

see ***Computing***, page 5

Chalk: A Cry for Change

by Chris Batchelder '10
Opinion Contributor

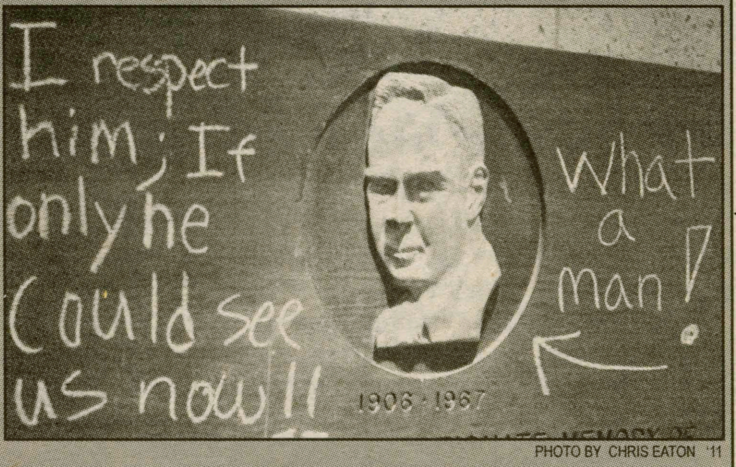


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

The chalk graffiti that graces the walls of several Dark Side buildings has sparked controversy around campus.

Last week, various messages written in chalk appeared across Hamilton College. Anonymous and with many different connotations, the graffiti was as surprising as it was eccentric. The real significance of this act, however, goes beyond its unorthodoxy. The act unapologetically claimed a medium of expression and interrupted an increasingly apolitical atmosphere.

Being chalk, it hurt practically nothing in terms of property, and being predominately on the dark side, it hardly disrupted any precious aesthetic quality. In a word, it was harmless. At the same time, it demonstrated that students here are justifiably searching for new outlets to voice their ideas.

It seems those responsible simply wanted to articulate their opinions to the campus in an unusual, and therefore surprising, manner. Also, it was a challenge to socially accepted forms of discussion. Statements about homosexuality or the prison system or the possibility of "another world" are charged on their own, but by putting them in public space, where we are so accustomed to encountering no such declarations, those same messages take on a new meaning and purpose far beyond their own content.

To put it simply, this is a campus that largely lacks deep discussion outside of the classroom. Discourse was certainly heightened during last semester's election cycle, but aside from that exceptional case, Hamilton can become a tough place to find genuine debate. Many students came here relishing the opportunity to regularly exchange ideas with colleagues, only to find that this is far from the case at Hamilton.

The buzz from the inauguration has died down; the messages, however, remind us that some are not satisfied. Some are not satisfied with both the state of the world and the ways in which we are expected to discuss it, and it would be a lost opportunity for the general student body to neglect this. The graffiti proves that Hamilton could use more activity, more creativity, and more opinions on an everyday basis.

Face Off: Should ELS Be Renovated Immediately?

Yes

by Sam Gomez '10
Opinion Writer

As the recession continues and unemployment rates soar, many are questioning the wisdom of proceeding with several of Hamilton College's planned construction projects.

The renovation of the Emerson Literary Society was one such project discussed at last week's Student Assembly meeting. Student Assembly members debated whether Hamilton would be sending the right message to struggling families who are finding it difficult to pay tuition and maintain their standard of living. Also, some believed that it would be unfavorable to prospective students for the college to seem so indifferent to the financial hard times that have fallen upon our country. Ultimately, however, the Student Assembly supports the eventual renovation of ELS.

I applaud the Student Assembly for its thoughtful and forward-looking debate on this issue. The loss of endowment that Hamilton has experienced in the last six months, while unfortunate, should not signal the end of the growth of Hamilton's campus and college community. Though the economy may be in a period of negative growth, Hamilton, with generous support from various Alumni, can continue to expand and improve the facilities on campus.

The Emerson Literary Society building, though a classic piece of architecture in some ways, is outdated and in desperate need of a face-lift. The establishment of a modern, clean, well-lit, and multi-media friendly facility that can be utilized by various student groups for meetings (as well as parties) would certainly benefit the college in the long run.

Why shouldn't the time for construction be now? As the recession continues, lack of capital and investment for building means that construction prices are at an unprecedented low. If we have enough for a substantial down payment, it would be financially sound for the college to lock in a low construction rate for the project.

When economies are in a period of decline, the natural impulse is to assume that they will continue to bottom out. In Hamilton's case, the fear that even more money could be lost from the endowment validates the claim that immediate renovation would necessitate more cuts from vital programs and projects in the future. In addition, faculty layoffs and decreases in college services to students could result. However, if everybody in the country was afraid to invest, build and expand, this recession would persist.

It is natural for capitalist economies to go through periods of boom and bust, and as history shows us, the hard times will not last forever. Hamilton should do its part in helping to stimulate the economy, locally by continuing with planned construction projects and nationally by continued careful financial management of its endowment funds.

We, as American consumers, cannot depend solely on the government to lift us out of these economic hard times. Instead, individuals should do their best to continue to spend while trimming the costs of unnecessary expenditures that have little to no stimulating effect on the economy.

WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

No

by Evan Klondar '11
Opinion Writer

Difficult financial times call for radical measures to control costs and rein in spending. The Trustees and Administration have emphasized a need to cut back in the current economic climate; there is no better way to reduce spending than by the cessation of new construction projects, such as the ELS renovation.

ELS is an iconic building on campus—it is centrally located, historic, and well-regarded, but it has fallen into disrepair. It is currently unsafe and nearly unusable; only the basement and first floor are able to hold events. Both the second and third floor are too dangerous to use for any purpose. The need for a renovation or complete reconstruction is obvious. But now is not the time.

If the College is serious about sending a message of fiscal restraint, and wants to show a concern for the financial situation of its students, it will put plans to construct a new ELS on hold. As noted in the Feb. 5 issue of *The Spectator*, 65 percent of the funds are accounted for—that's about 7 million dollars. That means that about 4 million dollars are going to need to be drawn from the endowment, or from some other source. This money would be better spent enhancing other aspects of the campus and academia, such as existing facilities and organizations.

The value of the endowment is shrinking at an alarming rate, and it would be irresponsible to take money from that source. That leaves an appeal to alumni. Hamilton's Class of 2013 is the first in many years to not be fully need-blind; wouldn't an additional 4 million dollars in the student aid budget be able to bridge that gap?

It is also worth noting that the money pinned for ELS is a one-time investment. Diverting this $4 million to student aid would only work for one year, or four years if designated as $1 million in additional aid per year. The spending scheme is ultimately limited; it could not stave off an aid shortfall in a longer, larger economic downturn.

As a tool for recruiting prospective students, the new ELS would certainly be an asset in the long term. The current building, beautiful as its façade may be, cannot be billed as a center for student life.

However, if we delay the construction by two years, how much will recruitment be harmed? Many talented students who are struggling in the current economic climate may be put off by our decision to proceed with an opulent student center when their parents may struggle to put food on the table.

Given the current economic crisis, the only prudent thing to do is to delay renovations of ELS. Even as a merely symbolic gesture, it shows solidarity with both current and prospective Hamilton students who are experiencing financial difficulty. To do otherwise is to disrespect students who have to take out additional loans simply to attend.

The Bagged Lunch Blues

Juice Bar closing causing many unnecessary headaches

by Lauren Magaziner '12
OPINION WRITER

It is 12:30 p.m. I just got out of two consecutive classes in Root. Next, I have a class in the Science Center at 1:00, followed immediately by a fourth class in Root. I have exactly one half hour to satisfy my unsettled stomach. With the destruction of the unprofitable yet convenient Juice Bar, there are not many options.

The bag lunch option was a great idea for students who needed to stuff a quick bite down their throats before class. However, for some insane reason, some people in charge think that moving the bag lunch option to the Howard Diner is an adequate substitute. This plan ultimately fails—it is inconvenient for sandwiches to be in the Diner. When many classes are in the Science Center and Root Hall, it is a long walk to get to the Diner. A walk, quite frankly, that no one can afford when they are trying to get to their next class on time. The bag lunch option needs to be on the light side, so that it is accessible to students who are on the run in between some of the main academic buildings.

Also, the Diner poses another problem. Students who are in the need of a grab-and-go lunch find themselves stuck in the Diner's massive line. This defeats the entire purpose of a bag lunch. If students have to wait in the Diner's line regardless, they might as well order Diner food. When students need to swipe and run, the location of the bag lunch should be in an isolated, un-crowded area, which is why the Blood Fitness Center was such a prime location.

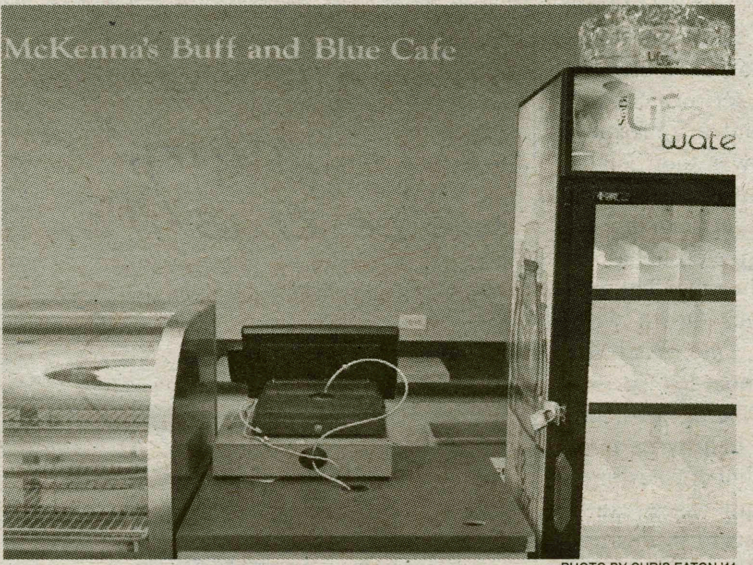


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

The Buff and Blue Café, now desolate and empty, is a quiet spot in the otherwise busy Blood Fitness Center.

The closing of the Juice Bar is upsetting in other ways—it was nice having other options for food, especially when Commons, McEwen, and the Diner become monotonous to the taste buds. Also, the Buff and Blue Café gave Hamilton some additional character.

The obvious counter-argument against reestablishing the Juice Bar is the lack of income, but there are two solutions to that problem. The main problem with the Juice Bar was that students did not know that it existed and did not know what was available there. There were occasional e-mails advertising lunch for a day at the Juice Bar but by the time students saw those e-mails, the Juice Bar was closed. In order for the Juice Bar to prosper, it needs to take a more Opus-like approach. The Juice Bar should send out an e-mail on Sunday night detailing all the meals on the menu for the entire week. That way, students could plan their day around the Juice Bar option that they know they like, rather than planning their day around some arbitrary mystery sandwich. Also, changing the hours of the Juice Bar—so that it starts at 11:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m—would drastically increase business. I cannot tell you how many times I have seen students trying to buy from the Juice Bar at 2:30, when it is closed.

The Juice Bar can be successful: Bring it back (with implemented changes, of course), and Bon Appétit can see it for themselves!

Ask Mister Morals

On phone drama and a transfer dilemma

Recently, a friend of mine (let's call her Dorothy), asked me to give her the number of a mutual friend of ours, Betty. The problem is that Dorothy wants Betty to join her sorority and has been inviting her to events since the beginning of last semester. If Betty really wanted to join don't you think Dorothy would have already had her number? I am good friends with Dorothy and Betty and don't want to offend either of them. What should I do?

Not providing Dorothy with Betty's number will offend Dorothy. I think you're overestimating the gravity of handing over Betty's number to Dorothy. Even when Dorothy gets Betty's number, (and she will get it, if not from you then from someone else) that doesn't mean that Betty automatically becomes a member Dorothy's sorority. Dorothy may invite Betty to another sorority event when they talk over the phone, but Betty can decline to attend if she so chooses. Relax; Betty isn't going to die if you give her number to Dorothy. You may actually be helping her out on the off-chance she is interested in joining the sorority but doesn't have Dorothy's number.

I'm applying for transfer to a few schools, including the college I've been dreaming of since high school. I need to contact sports coaches at these schools, but I don't want my coach to know that I'm probably going to leave after this season. If I tell him, I'll probably have to sit out the season. What should I do?

You owe it to your current coach, not to mention your teammates, to be honest about your plans for next year. Your current coach has invested his time and energy into making you a better player and arranging for you to compete at the intercollegiate level. Not telling him or her about your plans for next year is not only dishonest, it spites all the work he has done on your behalf. You are obligated to tell your coach about your plans even if you are certain he will bench you. From his perspective, it may make sense to give other athletes more playing time in the hopes that they will develop into better players one or two seasons later, when you are the "Big Man or Woman on Campus" at the school of your dreams (hopefully, it's not St. Lawrence).

Mister Morals is a column devoted to helping resolve the ethical dilemmas of Hamilton students. E-mail questions and comments to Adam Vorchheimer at avorchhe@hamilton.edu. All submissions will remain strictly confidential.

Thumbs up

Buffergrams allow the Buffers to lend their skill to the Hamilton campus. What more can they offer after dedicating so much time to finding the cure for sobriety and virginity-itis in afflicted freshman girls?

Wine tasting: Professor Steve Yao has taught us how to use our noses and tongues to get the full experience of delicious wine. Unfortunately, we must all teach ourselves to forget these things before we head back to McEwen.

Valentine's Day: A dozen flowers for one blowjob. The barter trade system at its best.

Role Models/ my-totally-hetero-Paul-Rudd-man-crush.

Thumbs down

Buffergrams: In case you're too tired to give her three minutes of mediocrity yourself.

PBX crush cans: Nothing says "Let's have sloppy blackout sex" like orange soda.

A world of dirty snow and soggy grass so depressing it makes me want to dye my hair black and write poetry.

Whoever stole the "Skate at your own risk" sign before I got to.

Nutrition counseling: Unless "counseling" is more like shock therapy, I'll still be pounding Diner breakfast every time I get drunk.

Figure Skating Club: They don't even let you bring lead pipes to their exhibitions.

Who Cares?

KDO and Sig Phi: Being crunchy and anti-establishment doesn't mean your not Greek, it means you're hypocrites.

Graffiti on Commons declares "We are all homosexuals." I mean, five bucks is five bucks.

Atheists, Agnostics, and Freethinkers ask the important question, "Should non-biological, non-legally-adoptive 'parents' be held financially responsible for their 'children'?" Which begs another question: How the f*#k do non-biological, non-legally-adoptive parents get children in the first place?

Sailing team: Make sure to enjoy the beautiful sailing of Oneida County in February.

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09 & Matt Fellows '09

Disclaimer: The jokes submitted in this column are based on nothing and, for the most part, are not funny. Please read them with the understanding that you are not enriching yourself in any way. If you are easily offended, or a huge b*!ch, you should avoid this column at all costs.

Computing Changes

*from **Technically**, page 4*

That would save over $30,000 per year. We could still keep the spaces where these computers are now located as work spaces for students with laptops. And the remaining computers would still be available for those students who do not have a laptop or were not able to carry it on a particular day. All students would still have access to printing in these locations.

My second idea relates to laser printing. Anyone who walks through the public computing labs can see the amount of paper that is thrown out. Even though we use recycled paper, and will be moving to duplex (two-sided) printing as the default, the major cost of printing is the toner (ink) that is applied to the paper. Reducing the amount of printing will reduce Hamilton's carbon footprint and save money.

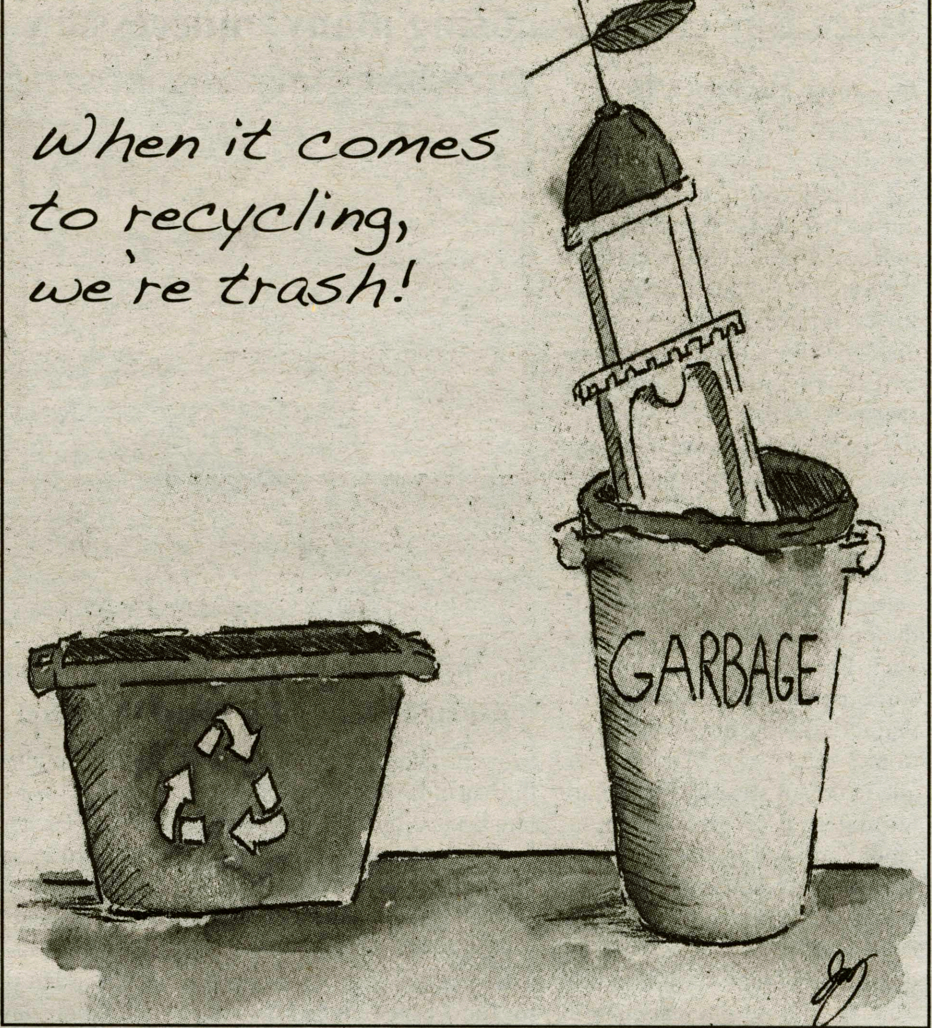
The only effective way that has been found to do this at other colleges has been to implement a print management system. In such an approach, each student is given an allocation of pages of free printing each year. The allocation is based upon the expected work that students do in connection with the academic program. This includes the writing of papers, the printing of reserve materials and other activities related to the courses they take. Printing beyond the free allocation would be charged a standard rate with discounts for duplex printing and premiums for color printing. The experience at other institutions is that the process of charging reduces the amount of printing by 25 to 40 percent as most inappropriate printing (personal materials) stops and everyone is more thoughtful about the printing they do. We presently have a task force studying our printing options.

I also feel that we can reduce the number of printers on campus, reducing electrical consumption and further reducing our carbon footprint. There are over 150 college-owned printers around campus. Each of these printers requires electrical power, toner, paper. In many cases new printers were added to minimize the distance someone has to walk to retrieve the job they print. Reducing the number of printers would have the added benefit of increasing our physical activity. Think of it as a technology wellness program.

These are two ways that thinking differently can save resources. In my next column I will talk about "cloud computing" as a different way of thinking.

Letters to the Editor

Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist



To the Editor:

As a writer for The Young Socialist, it was with great attention that I read Steven Saurbier's anti-socialist letter in last week's Spectator. The letter, full of indignation, was simply devoid of any real political content. Instead of making a mature and reasoned argument against socialism (or, for that matter, any of our articles), Saurbier could only mount a petty tirade. He was sure to utilize buzzwords such as "propaganda" and "rubbish", but beyond these infantile insults, he failed to support his baseless claims in any significant way.

Just as importantly, Saurbier's letter suggests that we have discomforted the apologists of capitalism, and that is precisely what we aim to do. In the face of revolutionary socialism, the proponents of capitalism can do nothing but offer empty words of oblivious resentment. The Young Socialist ruffles the feathers of those who defend the status quo, those who support the exploitation of the majority and those who hold disdain for human dignity.

Thus, Steven Saurbier's nonsensical rant serves to vindicate our efforts. Needless to say, the Young Socialists will continue to promote and explain the positions of the international socialist movement within the Hamilton community.

Chris Batchelder '10, writer for *The Young Socialist*

To the Editor:

This most reason edition of "Thumbs up, thumbs down, who cares?" contained a "joke" that was an embarrassment to the Spectator and the entire Hamilton college community. This bit of racism was so appalling and lacking in humor that I should not have to identify it, but clearly when the editors proofread the piece they had some difficulty spotting it, so I will do them a favor and point it out. Saying that the rapper Ghostface Killah murders white people is racist, I don't care what you think of his name.

It horrifies me that the authors have so little class and intelligence as to insult a guest on our campus in such a way. I should have thrown every Spectator in the trash to ensure that he would never see it. As if this wasn't enough, the authors go on to imply that every white person should don the African masks on display in the Emerson Gallery before attending the concert, to save themselves from certain death at the hands of a black man. This scene is sad, not funny. "Looks like... [the masks] will come in handy after all." The authors are alarmingly ignorant.

Two questions remain: first, why would the authors write this? I am sure that they will answer with some boring lie like, "It was only a joke, you're taking it too seriously, and you read too much into it." Statements like this betray a deadly lack of awareness of the real world. Wake up. The actions and things you say have consequences. Second, why did the editors publish it? Perhaps it was a moment of irresponsibility and they did not proofread at all. But then they are hypocrites. Perhaps they saw the humor in the "joke," but then they are as racist as the authors and should be removed from their posts.

A while ago two letters were published from two different women in two different weeks about how the humor of the Buffers has become unbearably inappropriate—my jokes in particular were singled out, to my chagrin. The group met and we decided that the best course of action was a terse and simple public apology. This apology was published by the editors two weeks after we submitted it, I don't know why. I demand that the editors and the authors follow the same course of action and issue an immediate apology and retraction of the "joke," and, since they have the power, I demand that it be produced in a timely manner.

Nick Fesette '09

Editors' note: The following is a response to Mr. Fessete's letter from one of the Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down writers.

Let me first offer my sincerest apologies to all offended by the Ghostface joke included in last week's edition of "Thumbs Up/ Thumbs Down." The comments made about the joke have inspired serious consideration and in retrospect the joke was too racially charged to be publicized. For that I, again, sincerely apologize on behalf of myself, the other Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down writers, and *The Spectator* editorial board.

That being said, the column I help write is of a nature that crosses lines and in many cases results in moments of insensitivity. Sometimes it's difficult to foresee how comments will be interpreted and who they may offend. Although I appreciate your concern, your harsh accusations of racism aimed toward the authors and editors were unwarranted. To call someone a racist is a serious charge and one that implies a terrible lifestyle of hurtful ignorance.

I assure you the joke in question was by no stretch of the imagination aimed to create a generalization motivated by racist minds. Instead it was an interpretation of a name, which I thought to be explicit, and I agree that this interpretation was hurtful and better left unstated. I'll be the first to admit that the joke was a moment of insensitivity more severe than others, but I'm unable to credit your accusations with anything more than that. I truly appreciate notification as to the reception of the jokes in the column and for that reason I thank you for your comments. I'm sorry to any and all that were hurt.

Matt Fellows '09

To the Editor:

The Recycling Task Force would like to address certain statements made by *The Spectator* on February 6, 2009 with regard to the Recyclemania competition.

First, we would like to clarify what the competition is measuring. The focus of Hamilton's participation is in the "Grand Champion" division, which measures the percentage of our total waste that gets recycled. For example, if Hamilton produced 1000 tons of waste in a week and recycled 200 tons of that, our recycling rate for that week would be 20%. At the end of the competition, the weekly rates are averaged into one cumulative rate that ranks us against other schools in the division.

In last week's front page picture caption, The Spectator reported two incorrect statements. First, "Taste Don't Waste" is an initiative promoted solely by Bon Appétit and is only coincidentally taking place during Recyclemania. Contrary to The Spectator's description of "Taste Don't Waste" as an "unsuccessful initiative," this initiative has actually reduced the total amount of food waste produced in Commons and McEwen over the past two weeks. We applaud Bon Appétit's efforts because they have helped reduce our total waste, which reflects positively in the Recyclemania competition.

Secondly, The Spectator incorrectly reported the data from the Recyclemania website as Hamilton's waste reduction rate, when it was in fact the percentage of our total waste recycled during the first week of the competition. The rate, 2.4%, is low because of Physical Plant's collection procedures. To reduce College costs and greenhouse gas emissions, paper and cardboard waste are only delivered to the Oneida-Herkimer Waste and Recycling Facility every other week. Bottles, cans, and other container group items are delivered weekly, as is our non-recyclable waste. The first week of the competition only factored in the container group recycling, not paper group, which accounts for the bulk of our recycled material, so our recycling rate was artificially low.

Additionally, the College allows Physical Plant workers to take five-cent deposit bottles and cans from the dorms before they are weighed and redeem them themselves. The weight of these bottles and cans is not included in overall recycling rates, which dramatically lowers the College's reported recycling rate and is not an accurate reflection of how much we are recycling. While we wish that Physical Plant would alter its policy to include the weight of the redeemed cans and bottles, this is something out of our control.

We would like to point out that for the second week of Recyclemania, the percent of our total waste recycled was 30.25%, which is an accurate recycling rate that accounts for all materials (minus five-cent deposits) recycled at Hamilton. Between the first and second week of the competition, 19 schools were added to the "Grand Champion" division, and Hamilton ranked 63rd out of 176 participating schools, based solely on the second week recycling numbers.

The real problem with our Recyclemania numbers is that every other week the numbers reflect only container group recycling, which makes up a comparatively small percentage of our recycling.

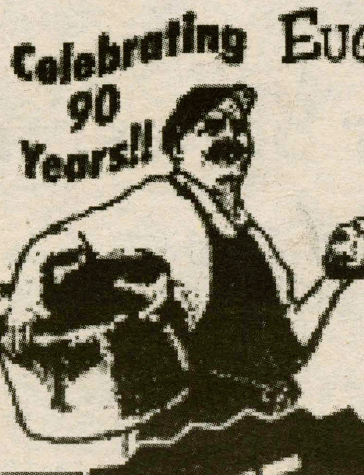
We would like to encourage the Hamilton community to step up their recycling efforts and continue good practices. We would also like to ask the Spectator to contact us for clarification and confirmation in future articles related to recycling to avoid misrepresented data and incorrect statements.

The Recycling Task Force:
Jen Kleindienst '09, Gillian Smith '09, Tara Apo '10, James Beslity '11, and Jen Santoro '11

Editors' note:

As the person primarily responsible for both pieces concerning Recyclemania, I apologize to you and to everyone misinformed by these pieces. I should have checked my information more thoroughly and used more care in what I wrote. I have long supported environmental activities and I meant no offense. I assure the Task Force and the community this type of oversight will not happen again.

Elijah LaChance '10, Science & Technology Editor



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FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Peter's Cultural Pet Peeves

by Peter Kosgei '10
Features Writer

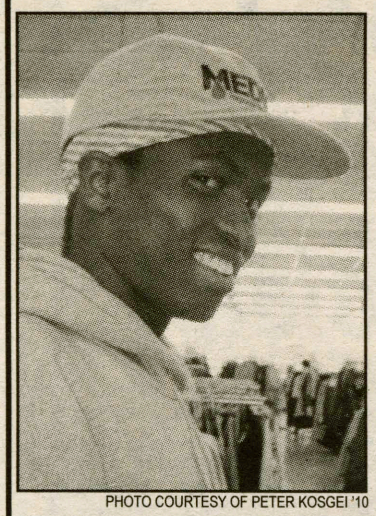


PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER KOSGEI '10

Kosgei is an international student from Kenya.

What is the difference between traveling to North America and the United States of America, between traveling to Europe and Italy, or between traveling to Asia and China? Now what is the difference between Africa and Uganda? Have you heard someone say, "Are you going home to Africa?" or someone ask, "How was Africa?" These sound like simple questions that don't need attention, but I have to mention here that I am not entirely comfortable with people asking me such general questions, especially because of the rampant that nobody ever shows all the goodness and beauty that exists in Africa. There are better places (if not the best!) to see in Africa than you could ever see here in America, for example. Areas around Eldoret and Kapsabet, in the Rift Valley, where I come from, are gorgeous. People who have visited this valley want to go back there because it is very green and splendid throughout most of the year. And to answer someone's question, yes, we live in houses. People need to stop assuming they know everything or enough about Africa and go on an adventure to learn about contemporary life in even the most remote areas. If you have never been there, please, don't generalize things and say that Africa is a dying continent, where there is famine and suffering, or starving kids and people with AIDS in every part of every country on the continent. Yes, there are starving kids who need help and could use *all* that food that turns immediately into "garbage" as it is thrown into the trash buckets here at Hamilton. All of these travesties exist on every continent and in every country in the world-not just in all those countries identified as "Africa."

But if you really care about "the starving kids in Africa," before you throw any more food out, think again about who is tak-

"If you are going to stereotype all of Africa then take responsibility for all of America."

stereotypes associated with my continent. Because these questions are commonplace and seem natural to some of you, I'd like to point out a few logical reasons why rephrasing your questions would elicit more relevant answers (for those of you who are asking international students about their trips home during winter break and really want to hear the answers).

First, and foremost, be more specific when you ask questions. I hate it when people ask me, "How was Africa?" I want to look at them and say "How do I know?" When people have asked me that question, I usually smile and keep quiet. I smile and keep walking not because I do not care to answer or know how to answer, but sometimes it is just easier not to think about being stereotyped than trying to explain all the reasons why the question does just that. Even though I didn't get a chance to travel across all of Africa, at least I know that Kenya and Africa are not synonyms. So what is the answer to the question?

On a different but related note, Africa is not only what is shown on TV; it is unfortunate ing the time to help those children dying of hunger at every moment of every day, even as you read this article. Imagine if that person was close enough to you, standing beside you, he/she would say something like this… "Please don't throw that out! Give it to me and help me live to see tomorrow." If you are going to stereotype all of Africa then take responsibility for all of America. Social responsibility begins on an individual level and you shouldn't ever assume you know enough or think that someone else will do anything for you. We all have to look at each other as individuals. When you do something, do it with all your heart because you will live only once.

"From Where I Sit" is the ESOL column that represents the nonnative English speaker's point of view on his or her experience in America. If you have a "From Where I Sit" story that you would like to share, please e-mail rfreire.

by Johanna Pajak '09
Features Columnist

Ah, the Rocky Horror Picture Show Party: our modern day bacchanalian, a night that always manages to live on in infamy, for better or for worse. Each year boys and girls alike strap on their bustiers and head out to celebrate this most erotic of festivities, never fully prepared for what's in store. I mean things can get sloppy, trust me, I know. This week, I received a question regarding one of the many, many tricky parts of pulling off a successful evening. It reads:

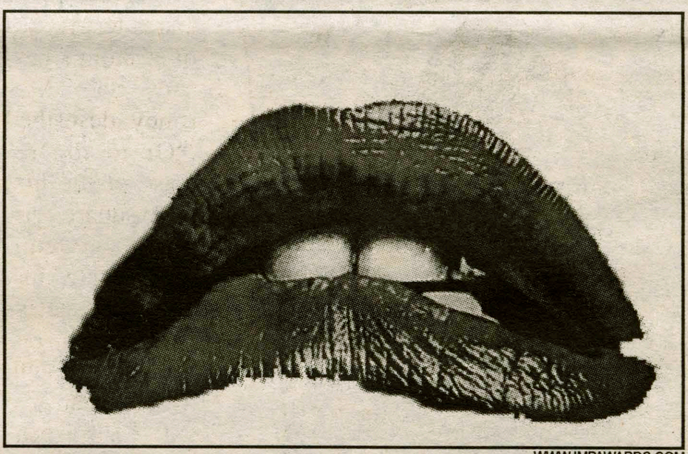
Q: With Rocky Horror Picture Show Party coming up, if I'm wearing a skirt and pantyhose, what's the best way to cover up a Sudden Onset Boner?

-Basil Hallward

Well Basil, while I personally don't have much experience coping with the trials and tribulations of the Sudden Onset Boner, I do have a fair amount of experience wearing a skirt and pantyhose. Try and tuck your manhood such that the pantyhose is securing it upward, keeping it in place against your lower abdomen. Thus, when your S.O.B. arrives, as it inevitably will in this setting, it will not protrude forward but be safely contained within the elastic of your pantyhose. From what I gather from conversations with some male friends, this is similar to the popular sweatpants method, in which the elastic waist is used in the same manner. An important thing you might want to consider is the tightness of the pantyhose. Make sure you still have adequate blood flow to your member; we wouldn't want a hidden S.O.B. party to turn into an anti-boner post-party.

Though I think that this will work out just fine for you, you should be comforted by the fact that this night, of all nights, is the most acceptable occasion to be rockin' the S.O.B. Of course, I'm not saying you should flaunt it or include it in any of your dance moves, but perhaps if you embrace your S.O.B. (in the metaphorical sense) and relax, it might just work itself out. Do you think that Tim Curry made it through his performance of "Sweet Transvestite" without getting a hard-on? Definitely not. Hell, I think I got a boner the first time I saw that act. So fear not, because flaunting your unabashed sexuality is what being a "hedonist, transvestite, pansexual scientist" is all about.

Please send your thoughts to:
specbetweenthesheets@gmail.com
Names will be kept confidential, advice will be practical, and humor will be plentiful.



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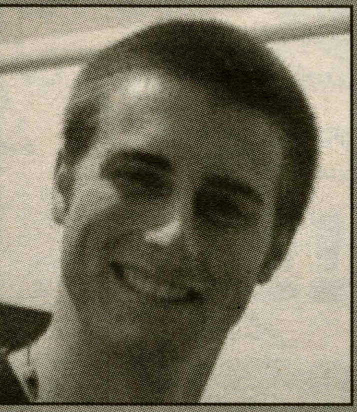
Separated at Birth?



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Andrew Root '09

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Ryan Gosling

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Inside The Whitman Estate

by Katrina Raebler '12
Features Writer

The first snow block was cut Jan. 20 and, subsequently, what began as a juvenile snow fort evolved into a house made of water, a community of devotion and a masterpiece of an estate. The Ms. Skip Whitman Estate.

Back in 1977, Ms. Skip Whitman graduated from Kirkland and established the Class of 1977 Snow Travel Creativity Fund. Though there have been previous attempts to realize Ms. Whitman's dreams, it was not until this winter that enough technology evolved, pristine snow quarries became plentiful, prime real estate became available (Minor Field) and the sun did not tragically melt the dream before its completion.

The Whitman builders icluded chief architect Austin Hawkins '09, imagineer/sculptor Casey Jones '10, co-sculptor Jeff Chandler '11 (who carved the life-sized lion statue out of snow), roof-specialist and executive thatcher Greg Root '09, workhorse Steve Rowe '09 and quarrymen Dave Moroney '09 and Anoop Pandey '10. These volunteers pointed out that they "couldn't have completed the project without the working class." The Whitman Workers put up to 20 to 30 laborious hours each into the estate.

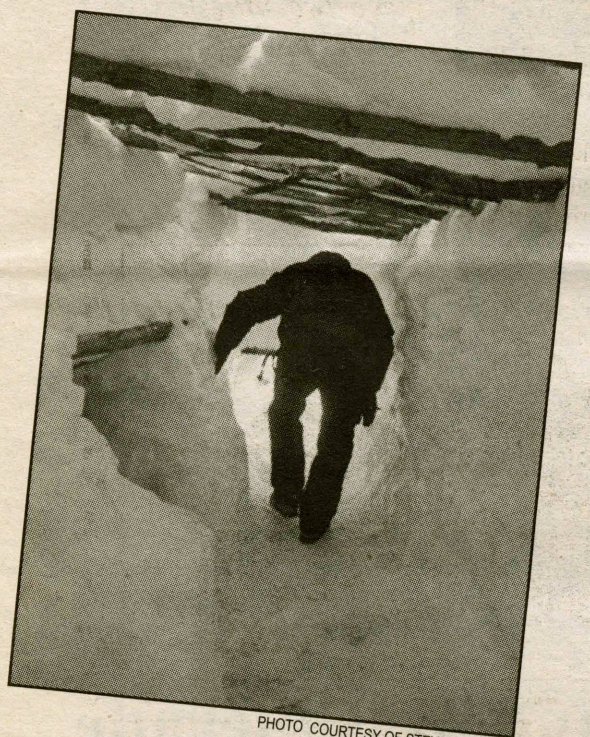


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE ROWE '09

The Whitman workers explained that the chief purpose of the estate is to serve as a waypoint for travelers out into the glen, to bring people together and to be a home – a Whitman home. Architectural inspiration came from North African Adobi structures, back country structures and Neo-Gothic flying buttresses. Construction challenges were numerous, as the Whitmans described. "Quarrying requires finesse – the snow blocks (weighing 20 to 30 pounds each) are quite fragile," Moroney said. Building requires familiarity with the natural layers of snow pack. "One must trust in the strength of the block – which derives from the crystals of snow structure," said Hawkins. "For us, the biggest leap forward was to make the roof sloped on both sides. We're using ridge pole and rafters that are thick and sturdy enough to hold the five to six pounds of snow resting on top of them," Root explained. Materials for the structure were all natural and organic. The only tools used were three shovels that "we did not steal from around campus." No axe was used to cut trees, but rather, a beaver was hired so as to improve the relationship between Hamilton and the Beaver Union. Casualties included a snow arch that was struck down by the wind, numerous roof collapses, mild cases of tendonitis in the Whitman workers' knees, and sore fingernails from wet moldy gloves.

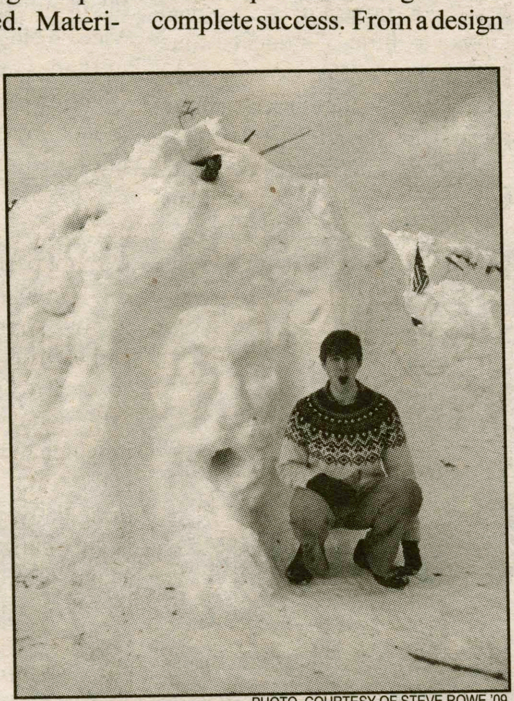


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE ROWE '09

The pleasure of building the estate however, is apparent. "Nothing compares to the joy of striking a new snow vein," Moroney described. "Or to the release of the first crisp square pristine block," reminisced Hawkins. "Equally satisfying is the final hack through tree with an axe – I mean a beaver – and then the crash," sighed one lumberjack.

The tragedy and the beauty of the estate rest in the truth that it is only here for the winter. "It is the appreciation of something that will be there and then won't... like life itself," Hawkins said. "Many question, why build it when instead you can just drink a bunch of Keystone? Well, now we can drink a bunch of Keystone inside our snow home."

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE ROWE '09

Jan. 31 marked the grand opening of the estate when the Whitman family welcomed one and all to their celebratory rager. "Interior capacity was maxed at about 100 people and an estimated 200 people came by to check out the Skippin scene with the help of the new Whitman Jitney stop," Hawkins explained. "The Skip Whitman rager was a complete success. From a design perspective, the Campo filter and built in beer coolers functioned simply and efficiently. From a party connoisseur perspective, it seemed almost like a piece of performance art, and was well integrated into life here at Hamilton. This is something that I find much of contemporary art fails to do. Whether it was art or just plain formal tribute to Skip Whitman, she would have been pleased to see that her dream, initiated in 1977 and finally realized in the Minor Field snow drift, was inaugurated to the tune of Dr. Dre featuring Snoop Dogg, still Dre and the snow floor of the reggae dance hall was thoroughly churned."

The estate has also been graced by welcomed visits from little toddlers and the Whitmans encourage anyone to come by anytime. In Whitman words, "When people come, they leave a little love and a little bit of themselves behind. Hopefully this bit of themselves isn't poop."

Thoughts from the Chairlift

by Laura Lee Smith '11
Features Writer

Picture the whitest snow you've ever seen covering miles of mountains on a beautiful ski resort. Lots of us Hamilton kids have either seen this or would like to some day. Little do we know that we have a student right here on campus who looks out the front windows of his house and sees this everyday. For *The Spectator*'s first installment of "Thoughts from the Chair Lift," I searched out someone who knows the slopes like the back of his hand. His name is Jack Laursen '11 and he's from the famous resort town of Park City, UT.

When I asked Jack to tell me about the sacred journey of the chair lift, he certainly had a lot to say. One thing I wanted to understand was how different his experience is from that of the normal vacationers that he sees in and out of his town all around the year. For Jack, hitting the slopes is the equivalent of most Hamilton kids heading to the gym. It's a quick walk, you get your blood pumping, and go home. The experience of living in a resort town like Park City is that it's like "second nature" for Jack. He understands that Park City is more than a hangout spot for tourists, it's home to a special kind of folk. An oblivious vacationer would never truly understand the majesty of the mountains. It's more than a spot to ski or snowboard; it's life.

When you live in Park City, skiing is what you do. Most kids like Jack describe it as a "nice way to get rid of stress." Some Park City High School's offer skiing as P.E. For two periods out of his high school day, Jack was searching for "freshies" and the perfect "pow," which are two ways of describing fresh, untracked snow. Nowadays, Jack has to wait until school breaks before he can break out his board, but he still enjoys the perks of watching some of the best skiing and snowboarding athletes in his own backyard.

The perfect day on the slopes, however, is a process. Jack described his adventure before heading to the chair: As he hits the sack, he dreads waking up "early as balls," because he knows he has to hit the mountain early so he and his boys can make the first tracks. As he and his boys ride the extremely high lift to the desired spot, they discuss which runs to demolish and each man chooses the track list for his day of ruling the slopes. Finally, to get the best sense of what it's like hopping off that ski lift on to the mountain, I ask Jack to describe the thought that races through his head as he gets ready to hit the freshest run of the day. He simply said, "this is gonna be epic." Take vacationers; the residents of Park City with Jack are as "gnarly" as they come.

Hamilton College

LOGIC PUZLLE

by Russell Marcus
Professor of Philosophy

Professor Inscrutable had three students in his contemporary meta-metaphysics course: Amie, Matthew, and Sven. Each student had to write the same number of papers for the course. Professor Inscrutable graded on a curve, such that the best of the three papers got p points, the second-best got q points, and the third-best got r points, where p, q, and r are distinct integers such that $p > q > r > 0$. There were no ties, and all students handed in all the required papers. At the end of the term, Amie had earned 22 points, and Matthew and Sven each had 9 points. Matthew had the best grade on the first paper.

1. How many papers were there?
2. What are the values of p, q, and r?
3. Who had the second-best grade on the second paper?
Solutions must contain explanations!

Rules

Complete solutions may be sent to puzzle@hamilton.edu

Or, via campus mail, to Russell Marcus, Philosophy Department.

Make sure to include your contact information with your solution.

The Puzzler will choose a best solution. In the case of several best solutions, a winner will be chosen at random from among them. Any one may play the puzzle, but only current Hamilton College students may win prizes. If the winner of the puzzle is not a Hamilton College student, a secondary winner may be chosen.

Prizes

Prize winners receive a t-shirt or mug from Lulasail, home of the best philosophy t-shirts on the web, or from The Unemployed Philosopher's Guild, which also has a wide range of philosophy paraphernalia.

The Deadline for Puzzle #4 is Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 4 p.m. All entries must be received by that time.

Visit our website: www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.htm

Students Pay Consultants To Land Job Internships

by Olivia B. Waxman '11
Features Writer

While investments are down in light of the global recession, college students are making an investment in internship placement firms to secure the connections that will give them a leg up in this constricted job market.

In a nutshell, the goal of these companies is to set up young go-getters with gigs at one of hundreds of businesses with whom they boast contracts from startups to Fortune 500 companies. Consultants guide students as they write their résumés and cover letters and coach them on what to say during their interviews. Students are guaranteed at least one job offer or their money back.

But the steep price tags have not deterred highly motivated clients from buying into these firms and their vast employer networks, as more and more businesses demand employees with internship or other professional work experience. In fact, as Phil Gardner, director of Michigan State's Collegiate Employment Research Institute, told Emily Frederix of the Associated Press, "about three-fourths of college students have had internships or some type of professional experience by the time they graduate" compared to the 35-45 percent of college students who held internships 25 years ago.

Paying for internships, however, is not a new concept, says Steve Rodems, a Senior Partner of Fast Track Internships, which is based in Highland, Texas.

"Everyone pays in one way or another," Rodems explains. "You have to buy the materials—the stationery, the stamps, the envelopes—and then spend time in the library trying to find job opportunities online. There's a cost to that."

His company caters to a wide range of college students, from English majors at Yale to business majors at community colleges. Since 2005, Fast Track has been launching professional mass-marketing campaigns for each of its clients, sending out their résumés and cover letters to "key decision makers" at 100 to 1,000 companies and organizations within their career fields and locations of interest.

WWW.PENNLIVE.COM

For $799, Rodems writes candidates' résumés and cover letters, emphasizing the kind of material in a student's narrative that employers will find most appealing. "After 25 years working in corporate America, I know what kind of content employers will be most interested in," he explains. "I've been on the other side of the desk." He then presents his clients with a box containing 100-300 copies of printed materials to look over and revise as necessary. All they have to do is sign, seal, and deliver the letters.

Why do all the work for the students?

"Our program is designed to take as little of students' time as possible," Rodems says. "As parents, we want our kids studying and not spending a lot of time looking for internships. We want to keep students being students because students aren't experts at finding a job."

Brill Street & Co., a Chicago-based internship-consulting firm, also coaches clients throughout the application process. But instead of charging a flat fee for its services, the company pays students to work internships at an hourly rate based on their skill set and their level of experience and bills the clients to cover the hourly rate, the employer's share of the payroll taxes, and its acquisition costs.

"Due to our unique role in this process, 'BrillStreeters' [moniker for student clients] are paid regularly each week, while company clients have the option to complete meaningful work without placing talent directly on their payroll," Vice President of Marketing Brandi Blades explains.

She credits this business model for the company's success during an economic slump. Receiving more than 200 applicants per week across all types of industries, Brill Street has seen the size of its clientele double in the last year. "Despite hiring freezes and layoffs, many companies turn to our direct pipeline of the best young minds as a cost-effective solution to traditional hiring models," Blades argues.

Still, many employers prefer to see students acquire internships on their own, says a Hamilton alum working in Washington D.C. at a firm that has stopped using internship placement companies.

"I have found that students who have to struggle through the process of finding their own opportunities can be more committed to the Congressman or Senator or organization with whom they intern," the alum says.

He prefers that students take advantage of the resources at their own colleges and universities to hone their life-long job search skills.

"There's probably very little these groups can do that is really better than what your career center and alumni office can do—and you've already paid for the career center's services," he argues. "Plus, it is more likely that individual professors will have a standing relationship with people in fields in which you are interested."

He does, however, back internship programs that have an academic component to them—like the ones that Hamilton runs in New York City and Washington D.C.—where students typically work internships four days a week while juggling two classes and an independent study.

"The accountability is much more clear for students who receive academic credit and who are in programs affiliated with accredited colleges and universities," the alum concludes.

Yet Fast Track's Steve Rodems begs to differ, arguing that his clients come to him when they have already exhausted the resources at their college career centers and job search websites.

"Of course, try every means that you can before you have to pay someone else to do the work for you," he says. "But the demand for internships has never been higher; they are too valuable to pass up."

Emerson Gallery Explores African Masks and Masquerade

by Xiaolu Xu '12
Features Writer

Not everyone is able to visit Africa, especially us busy students isolated on the snowy Hill thousands of miles away. Fortunately, the three exhibitions in Emerson Gallery on African masks and masquerade provide us an opportunity to experience original African art and culture.

Humans all over the world have worn masks as protection, concealment, or amusement, but masks in Africa have particular social and religious significance and are widely used today. Masquerade is a form of community-wide gathering that celebrates a variety of events, from births, marriages and funerals to harvests and coronations. Masqueraders transform themselves into animals or spirits in order to conduct rituals. This ancient and vibrant art is one of the best media to reflect African social and cultural heritage.

West African Masquerade is a photography collection that was created between 2004 and 2006 by Phyllis Galembo, an artist from Upstate NY. Prior to this collection's creation, Galembo shot various costumes such as carnival performers

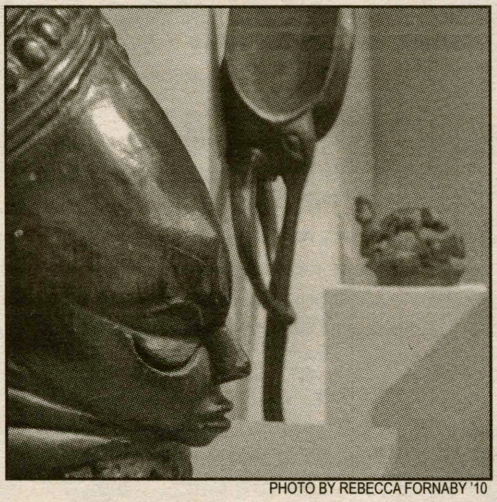


PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10

and Halloween revelers. She has always been fascinated by the change of persona involved in masks. This time, Galembo turns her focus to West Africa. The 13 photos in her exhibitions feature masqueraders in Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Benin. Though usually made of inexpensive materials such as leaves, coarse fabrics, and wood, these various costumes boast elaborate expressions. Their stunning presence is due to dramatic designs and bold coloring. The photo shoots contain somtimes scary scenes such as a masquerader wrapping himself in white cloth to mimic a corpse. There are also shots with cheery tones such as the one of three people dressed as walking sunflowers. They wear costumes completely made of fresh green leaves. The exhibition immerses the audience with distinctive images, each with a story of its own.

If these two-dimensional images by Phyllis Galembo cannot satisfy your appetite for

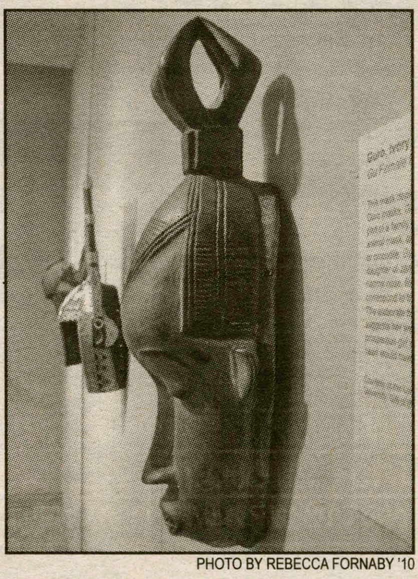
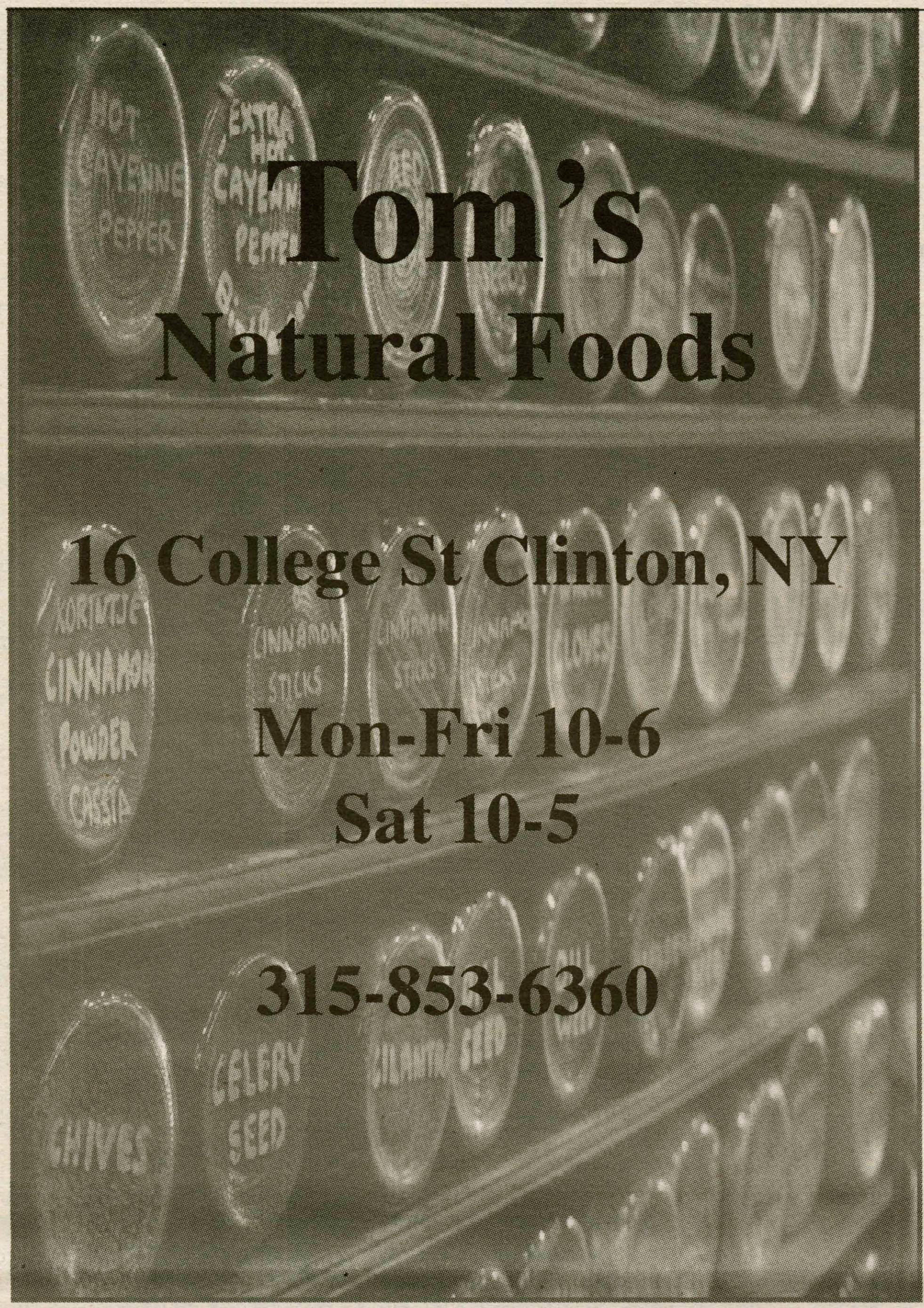


PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10

African masks and masquerade, you can certainly expect more from the other two exhibitions. *African Masks* from the Collection of the Longyear Museum of Anthropology at Colgate University provides a good supplement with the real presence of masks. Close-ups allow the audience to examine every nuance of these mostly wooden crafts. In another exhibition made up of two videos—*Neger* and *Cutting the Mask* by IngriMwangiRober-Hutter—the artist presents the traditional African masks in a modern setting. She uses her own hair to create masks and uses herself as model. Ingrid-MwangiRoberHutter was born in Kenya, where hair has a profound standing in society. As was common in her culture, she devoted a signficant amount of time to her hair growing up. By structuring, binding, wrapping, braiding and bundling her own hair into changeable masks around her face, the artist attempts to use the childhood patterns to transform and restore her identity. She sees this as a way of dealing with the racial and sexual differences she has experienced in the world.

This trio of exhibitions will continue at the Emerson Gallery until April 5.



JUNIORS:

The Honor Court is looking for one more representative from the class of 2010. If you are interested please send a 1 pg platform (NO MORE THAN 1 PG) by Friday, February 20th @ 4pm.

If you have any questions, please contact mmaeyama@hamilton.edu

Again, the deadline is Friday, February 20th @ 4pm.

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●12:50●3:00-5:10-7:20▲9:30 DTS PG

JENNIFER ANISTON DREW BARRYMORE BEN AFFLECK SCARLETT JOHANSSON
he's just not that into you ●1:40-4:15-7:00▲9:40 DTS PG-13

PUSH ●2:00-4:25-6:50▲9:15 DTS PG-13

TAKEN *#1 MOVIE!* *LIAM NEESON*
●1:15●3:20-5:20-7:30▲9:35 PG-13

PAUL BLART: MALL COP
●12:35●2:50-5:00-7:10▲9:05 *#1 COMEDY!* PG

THE UNINVITED ●1:50●4:00-5:55-8:00▲10:00 PG-13

HOTEL FOR DOGS ●1:30●3:40-6:00 PG

NEW IN TOWN ●2:10-6:20 *RENEE ZELLWEGER* PG

GRAN TORINO 4:10-8:10 *CLINT EASTWOOD* R

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Ghostface Killah Falls Short

by Jennifer Vano '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hamilton has a knack for shocking its students: IMF show cancellations, controversial speakers, bomb scares. But no average-Joe Hamilton student could have expected that the legendary but notorious Ghostface Killah of the infamous Wu Tang Clan would grace us with his presence (and, more importantly, disappoint us with his performance).

On Saturday Feb. 7, dozens of Hamiltonians and townies filed into the Tolles Pavilion (Annex) in anticipation of the Campus Activities Board's biggest show so far of this Spring semester. For many students, a hip-hop show is foreign: the dynamics, the energy, the content, these are elements of a rap performance that many people have experienced only by watching music videos. Moreover, the average student (or Central New York resident) is not a hip-hop junkie—hip-hop, let's remember, has its history deeply rooted on the East or far West Coast, not in suburbia.

Much to the surprise of many attendees, the turn-out was impressive. "I was very surprised to the see the attendance. The atmosphere was good; it was positive," says Luvuyo Mandela '09. Quite a few audience members had never even heard of Wu Tang or Ghostface, but the Annex was packed, the energy was high, and people came to have a good time.

As is the case with most live shows, audiences have to patiently sit through openers before the headliner hits the stage. Though the booking of the show was a bit chaotic (CAB went through several booking changes, including a cancellation by young MC Charles Hamilton), CAB finally booked Smif-n-Wessun, a hip-hop duo that is part of Brooklyn-based group Boot Camp Clik, to open the show. The duo, consisting of members Tek and Steele, seemed unprepared and unpolished. The imposing Tek, with his tattoos, ill-fitting and wrinkled t-shirt, sideways baseball camp and unkempt beard, barked to the audience while his rhyming partner, Steele, who sported long dreds and rhinestone-encrusted sunglasses, admitted to being a pot-head and asked audience members if they wanted to party after the show. Despite the duo's commanding stage presence, their set was too long and their range too limited. Instead of sticking to their forte—rapping—the two attempted traditional singing and failed miserably. According to Victoria O'Neill '09 and many others, this portion of the performance sounded "like bad karaoke" and was painful to both hear and watch.

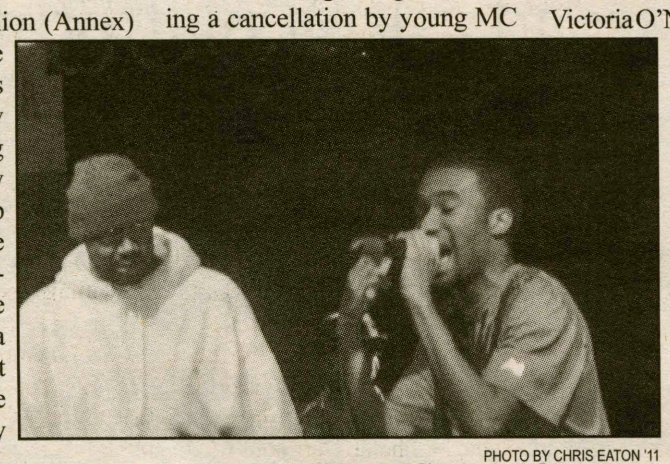


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Ghostface invited Hamilton MCs up on the stage.

The main act was barely better. O'Neill continued, "it was a strange dynamic," and others said simply that they don't have anything good to say. Because barely half-way through the show Ghostface called for the best of Hamilton's amateur MCs to battle and the best (or worst) of its female dancers to shake what their mamas' gave them, it "felt like Hamilton was performing on the stage more than he was. The audience was there,

*see **Ghostface**, page*

Juicy Campus Gets Squeezed

by Sarah Bingham '12
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

This is truly a sign of the economic times: *Juicy Campus*, the online gossip forum, has been shut down due to a "lack of online ad revenue," according to *U.S. News and World Report*. The reactions are mixed; this website was fun for many, and harmful to the reputations of many more. Since *Juicy Campus* was completely anonymous, it was easy to post vicious falsities about anyone and everyone.

"*Juicy Campus* was mean, it was hurtful. It should not have been online," says Roxane Makoff '12. But anyone who has tried to go to the site recently will have noticed that you are redirected to a new gossip website called "*CollegeACB*." *ACB*, or "Anonymous Confession Board," seems to be a *Juicy Campus* knock- off, originally started by recent graduates of Johns Hopkins and Wesleyan, and is now run by a freshman at Wesleyan.

This freshman has lofty goals for the *Juicy Campus* replacement; he aims to create an environment where students can have "actual discussion," instead of anonymous "salacious remarks or personal attacks."

CollegeACB claims that "Such a philosophy sets the ACB apart from *Juicy Campus*, a website that fostered superficial interactions, often derogatory and needlessly crude. By contrast, the *ACB* consistently hosts a higher level of discourse—while still making room for the occasional gossip post," according to a recent press release issued by this very same freshman.

But these "superficial interactions" will be missed by some. "I'm devastated," states one Hamilton student who wishes to remain anonymous. "It was a source of entertainment. I know it was mean, but you have to know that most of the things on it aren't true. It was just fun when you're bored."

> "*Juicy Campus* was just mean. People...wrote really slanderous things. That isn't healthy for a community as small as Hamilton."

They must realize, however, how unlikely it is that this forum will be used for intelligent discussion. In order to avoid the controversy that came from *Juicy Campus*' complete anonymity and unregulated nature, the *ACB* enables users to flag posts that they find offensive, which brings them to the attention of the webmaster, (also the Hopkins freshman) who has the ability to remove any comments which he deems offensive.

This nod to regulation will be appreciated by many, especially those who are glad to see *Juicy Campus* expire. One freshman states, "*Juicy Campus* was just mean. People were immature and wrote really slanderous, offensive things. That isn't healthy for a community as small as Hamilton."

ACB also sees themselves as being different from *Juicy Campus* in the way that their website is laid out. There isn't any advertising, and within each school's individual page, each topic has its own section; there are tabs for advice, sex, issues, academics, etc. The website also sees itself as a matchmaker: there's a feature called the "crush list," which enables the user to list five people they're interested in. This list remains anonymous until someone on your crush list adds you to their list, and you both are notified of you're mutual interest. In theory, sparks shall fly.

It is undeniable that *CollegeACB* has lofty ideals, and we'll have to stay posted to see if the visions of this fledgling operation come true. In the mean time, we students may just have to put our seditious, slanderous and generally mean comments on hold, until the *ACB*, like *Juicy Campus*, loses site of its honorable goals and becomes just another gossip website.

Choir Gets Musical

by Lexi Nisita '12
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

This past weekend, the Hamilton College Choir staged the Gilbert and Sullivan musical *Utopia, Limited,* a satiric commentary on British imperialism. The plot focuses on a small island, which, in its overzealous efforts to become "civilized," converts every man, woman and child into the then-novel financial concept of a limited liability company. However, either because of the debatable quality of the play itself or the indubitable talent of the lead actors, only the brightest stars were able to stand out in a performance which was no travesty but was still, put bluntly, lacking.

Before the opening act began, the fittingly campy set design of a tropical island built up an expectation of raucous comedy and silliness. The chorus, unfortunately, did not deliver. Although the first song is indeed titled "In Lazy Languor Motionless," it appeared no more than a lucky coincidence that the chorus was wholly uncommitted to their job. In fact, the group understandably fell victim to the usual traps. Throughout the play they seemed unsure of whether or not they should appear alive and engaged with the scene or simply remain statuesque and zombie-like in the background. It certainly cannot be denied that the chorus members have beautiful voices. Despite this, the soprano-heavy music in the first act ended up sounding oddly churchlike and wholly out of place in the context of the play. The best scenes and songs in this play, both inherently and in this particular staging, are those that feature small assortments of the main characters.

Like almost everything in Utopia, Limited, things improved with the onset of the second act. The plot itself did not take off until late, and seemed to dilly-dally confusingly for too long. After the second act, once the islanders have become completely Anglicized, the preachy chorus music and bored faces seem to fit in a little more with the characters' situation.

Even seasoned actor and notable singer Winston Cook-Wilson '09 took a few songs to really warm up, and did not fully slip into his role as the enthusiastic but slightly dim-witted King Paramount until well after his first appearance. Once he did so, he played the intellectually malleable king with relative ease and put forth a convincing and casually hilarious performance. Katie Anderson '11 also created a wonderfully cheeky Princess Zara, the king's eldest daughter. Her flawless voice was supported by strong and only rarely overbearing acting, and the barely hidden smirk she kept on her face reminded the audience that even if the jokes did not seem funny, they were at least supposed to be. However, none could compare to David Moroney's '09 performance as one of two Utopian Supreme Court judges, Scaphio. Moroney was one of the only actors utterly immersed in his character and, perhaps consequently, one of the only actors in the play that actually forced the audience to laugh. Everything from his contorted facial expressions and creeping finger movements down to his jumpy footwork was perfect, and it was not surprising to hear from the cast that he never broke character backstage during the performances.

Every four years, Professor of Music and director of *Utopia, Limited* G. Robert Kolb chooses a Gilbert and Sullivan piece for the annual choir musical. Said Kolb of the performance, "I thought it went very well. It's always challenging because we do it on absolutely minimal rehearsal time." Kolb also mentioned he cut almost half of the music from the second act, set mostly in the King's drawing room, to better appease a modern American audience.

Whether or not this measure succeeded in enthusing audiences is debatable. The musical was very well-received when it debuted in London in 1893; perhaps it simply did not transfer well. The lead actors generally gave their best to bring life to a play that was not awful, yet in the end engendered no more in its viewers than light laughter and indifference.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FIONA MACQUARRIE '09

The Choir sings about the pros and cons of Utopia.

Breaking it Down with The Downbeat Keys

by Matt Nudell '11
Arts & Entertainment Contributer

Will Preston '11 (Ill Will) - MC
Kadahj Bennett '12 (Simile) - Vocals/MC
Baldwin Tang '10 - Keyboards/ DJ
Ryan Calabrese' 09 - Drums
Andrew Root '09 - Bass
Jared Schneider '11 - Guitar/Sax

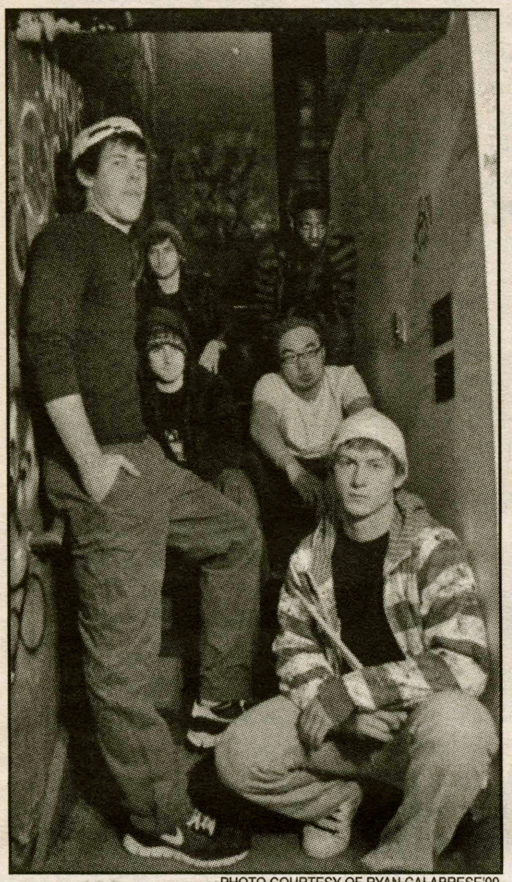


PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN CALABRESE'09.

The DBK aim to redefine hip-hop.

Does DBK have a general message to Hamilton?

Ill Will: This project is really cool because you rarely see professional "rap bands." You usually have a rapper and a producer and no affiliation between the instrumentalists and the lyricists. But in our case, we're a fully functioning rap/hip-hop group.

Root: Well it's "ghetto-funk."

Ill Will: In other words, it's experimental hip-hop funk.

Do you think you sound similar to The Roots?

Ill Will: We definitely pay homage to them because we both have a "live" sound.

Root: Our vibe , or our philosophy on how we play our music, is very similar to The Roots. When people hear our music, they tend to think that we sound like Gym Class Heroes or The Roots; they immediately point to established "live-sounding" hip-hop groups. But I really like to think that our sound is pretty distinct.

What other artists have influenced you?

Kadahj: I feel like a lot of our music reminds me of Lupe Fiasco. He's always trying to push the boundaries between hip-hop and rock music, especially live music. I get a lot of inspiration from Musiq Soulchild, Raheem Devaughn, Kanye West and Common.

Ill Will: I like old Nas, but I hardly listen to rap music. This sounds strange, but there's a band called the Mountain Goats. Their singer is one the greatest lyricists that I've heard. I try to incorporate his style in my rap.

What do you think hip-hop will sound like in 10 years?

Ill Will: Hopefully where we are taking it. We play all of our music live and with no computer-generated beats. Also, our lyrics are reflective of everyday life from our generation's perspective. Our songs are about something that is not just bulls**t about hoes and f**king chicks.

What's the progress on your debut album?

Baldwin: It's almost done. The tentative release date is March 1st. I think we only have 1-2 songs left to track. The remaining work will be completed this week, we'll mix it at a studio in Syracuse this weekend, and then send it out to get the CDs made.

Ill Will: "Regular People," "Lyricist" and "Slow Down" are the big tracks so far. But I think any song on the album can be anyone's favorite. I think there is something for everyone.

Do you have an album title?

Kadahj: When I distributed some early versions of the album's tracks to people, a possible name that surfaced is "The Invisible Ink Mixtapes." Don't hold us to that, though.

What was the first song that set the tone for DBK?

Root: We played it at one of our first shows and then got to see our live performance on DVD, and we were all blown away by the song's energy. From that point forward, we knew we wanted to try to make this band happen.

Do you have shows planned?

Root: We are doing Febfest's Battle of the Bands this Friday and an all-campus band festival the day before May Day. I think we are also looking into a couple of shows at Colgate, Amherst, Dartmouth and Cornell.

Ill Will: While we want to play some more Hamilton shows in the near future, the album is our top priority right now. We'll be busy for the next few months.

I saw you guys performing at AD's infamous Deansboro party two weeks ago. How was the audience's reception?

Ill Will: It was the most energetic fun concert we've played. It was the best crowd response we've had for each song.

Jared: It was pretty wild. I kept getting knocked to the wall.

Root: I had to hit people with my bass headstock to keep them away. Apparently people were breaking things and stealing stuff. I am just proud to create that vibe. It was so raucous that we're not allowed to play there again.

What are your plans?

Root: I think our music has a good shot. Most hit songs today are made for the pop market, like cotton candy. A song comes out, you hear it immediately and like it, and then get sick of it in a period of a month. I feel we've spent a lot of time with the beats and the grooves on this album and trying to get at something deeper.

Any final comments?

Root: There is this vibe at Hamilton that any band that comes from campus is just a bunch of dudes who get together and play music, and it's not real. Yet, when other bands come in and play, people look at them in awe and think they are legitimate. I ask Hamilton kids to realize that there are talented musicians right under their noses who have the potential to actually go somewhere.

For more information: visit www.myspace.com/downbeatkeys.

VALENTINE'S DAY HOROSCOPES

by Steve Allinger '09
Staff Seer

Aries: They say that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. They also say that the way to a man's dick is much easier to find.

Taurus: Sometimes a quiet night in with a movie is just as romantic as a sunset horseback ride on the beach. Especially since there are no suns or beaches in Central New York, and all of the horses have frozen to death.

Gemini: The following movies are the perfect mood setters for an intimate evening: Air Bud: Golden Receiver, Land Before Time III - VI, and the always classic Sluts with Nuts. (Thank you John Tower for the hot tip on that last movie).

Cancer: There is an unwritten law that if you spend a certain amount on a date for Valentine's Day, they are bound by custom to give you some sugar. It is only polite to call them at 12:01 a.m. on Valentine's Day and ask what that amount is.

Leo: Get a girl a teddy bear and she'll think you're sweet. Get a girl a real bear and you can intimidate her into thinking pretty much whatever you want her to.

Virgo: Spending $100 dollars at a restaurant on Valentine's Day is not unheard of. However, it is imperative that you understand the difference between spending $100 at a classy establishment and spending $100 on Crunch Wrap Supremes at Taco Bell.

Libra: Nothing says "I love you" like telling someone "I love you." And apparently, if you're naked and holding a critically endangered Bengal Tiger cub when you say it, nothing gets you arrested faster.

Scorpio: Absence makes the heart grow fonder. So if you completely avoid your girlfriend on Valentine's Day, she will grow so fond of you she'll tattoo your face directly over her own face.

Sagittarius: I apologize for the creepiness of the above horoscope.

Capricorn: Writing an epic love poem can drive a woman to fall deeply in love with you. Or it can drive her to think you are a huge p*ssy.

Aquarius: It is never easy being alone on Valentine's Day. Especially when you're ugly and nobody likes you.

Pisces: Nothing is as romantic as forbidden love. But when it comes to the alligators in the Science Center, maybe you should consider exactly why it's forbidden.

How Many Lettuceheads?

by Joshua Hicks '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The Red Heroine

The 1929 Shanghai film, *The Red Heroine,* was shown at the KJ Auditorium on Sunday Feb. 1. Though parts of the translations were unclear, the overall film was a success. To help tell a compelling tale of a young girl who rises from poverty to undefeated warrior, the Devil Music Ensemble created a serious live bang with sound effects and an enthralling score.

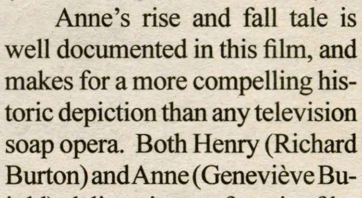
The tale begins with an upclose of a young villager screaming to the village that invaders are approaching, marking a mass exodus. When young Ko and her blind grandmother attempt to escape, they are separated, the girl captured by the evil general and her grandmother killed. The beauty in this story is Ko is rescued and trained to become the savior, protecting those who are helpless (including men, women and children). The Red Heroine is truly a warrior above and beyond her time.

The use of martial arts, comedy and suspense all add for creative storytellig. When lustful men come prowling on the scene, the Red Heroine comes to save the day, and (for a young girl) stands victorious in an almost effortless fashion. CALLING ALL BULLIES and PILLAGERS: You have been warned. *The Red Heroine* gets 4.5 out of 5 Lettuce Heads for an exceptional musical and cinematic experience.

Anne Of The Thousand Days

Anne Boleyn is chosen for her wit, charm, and beauty, but after Henry VIII divorces his first wife to be with Anne, his demands for a male heir become the basis for their union. Anne's promises to fulfill Henry's wish go sour with a dead son and the birth of a girl, (the future Queen Elizabeth I).

Anne's rise and fall tale is well documented in this film, and makes for a more compelling historic depiction than any television soap opera. Both Henry (Richard Burton) and Anne (Geneviève Bujold) deliver in my favorite film depicting scandal, lust, romance and that good ol' British monarchy. Five Lettuce Heads for this 1969 classic. Do see it if you can!



Backstage with Singer Schuyler Fisk

by Rachel Pohl '11
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Dainty Schulyer Fisk opened for Ben Taylor on Thursday January 29, 2009. Crowds raved about her sultry vocals and guitar skills. After the show, she sat down with us to discuss her music, her shows, and her habits. Her first album, The Good Stuff, will be released on iTunes February 17.

When did you decide to switch from acting to music?

I made a conscious decision about 4 or 5 years ago to put all my focus and energy into music. I always planned to write anyway, so it was a natural progression.

What's your proudest acting moment?

My proudest acting moment? I'm not sure if it's happened yet (laughs). I did enjoy getting to play a character nothing like myself on "Law and Order: SVU" when I played a baby-killer in love with her father.

Do you think you'll pursue acting again?

I think I will do some more acting at some point, but right now I'm really happy doing music. It's where my heart is right now, so I'm going with it until I feel the desire to get back into acting.

Do you do any weird rituals before you perform?

Not really, but I never ever drink any alcohol before I perform. I like to be in a clear state to really take in the experience and give my best show. I know some performers like to have a drink before a show to calm their nerves, but I think those little nerves are a good thing. They keep you in the moment.

Do you prefer colleges or large concert halls?

It's refreshing to change it up and play a college, a bar, an outdoor shed, a listening room, or a concert hall. I love the intimacy of playing smaller rooms because it's like I'm playing for everyone in my living room. I get to see their faces and feel that connection. But I also love the big, big, big venues. There's this overwhelming feeling I get. It's a rush and an incredibly powerful feeling, like you're a rock star or something; an exaggerated, cooler version on yourself.

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/SCHUYLERFISK

Fisk sings about the ups and downs of relationships.

Craziest fan encounter?

Craziest? I'm not sure how to judge that. Honestly, I'm still shocked that I have fans that know who I am and I'm grateful for any fan encounter. But I think I signed someone's arm once. That was cool.

So, new album? Exciting!

It's taken my whole life to make this record! But seriously, I have been trying to make this record for about five years. Once we actually started tracking "The Good Stuff," it took about five months to complete, but we lost a little time during the holidays. There have been a lot of struggles along the way, but now I'm grateful for them. Those struggles helped inspire songs and have made me realize that I'm stronger and more determined than I ever thought I was.

Are there any major changes you want to make musically?

I'm sure there will be a few changes, but it's not a conscious thing. I feel like I'm constantly changing and evolving as a writer, but I can't really predict what those changes will be. I don't really plan ahead like that. I just see what comes out, you know? I will say that I have been writing a lot more songs on the piano lately than the guitar, so I guess that could change things up a little bit.

I loved playing for y'all at Hamilton College! You guys were all so sweet and I'm happy I got to meet a lot of you! I look forward to coming back!

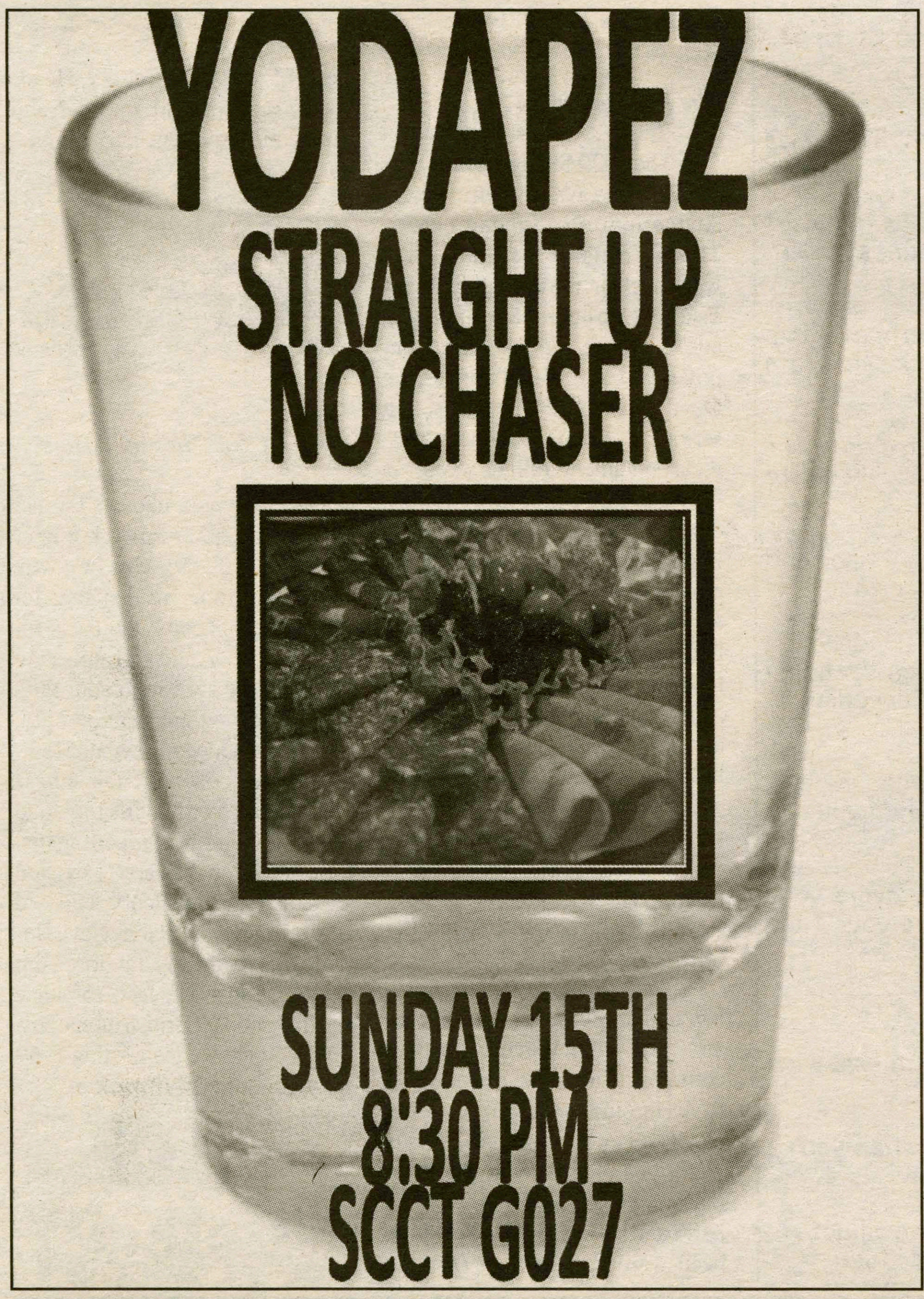
Ghostface

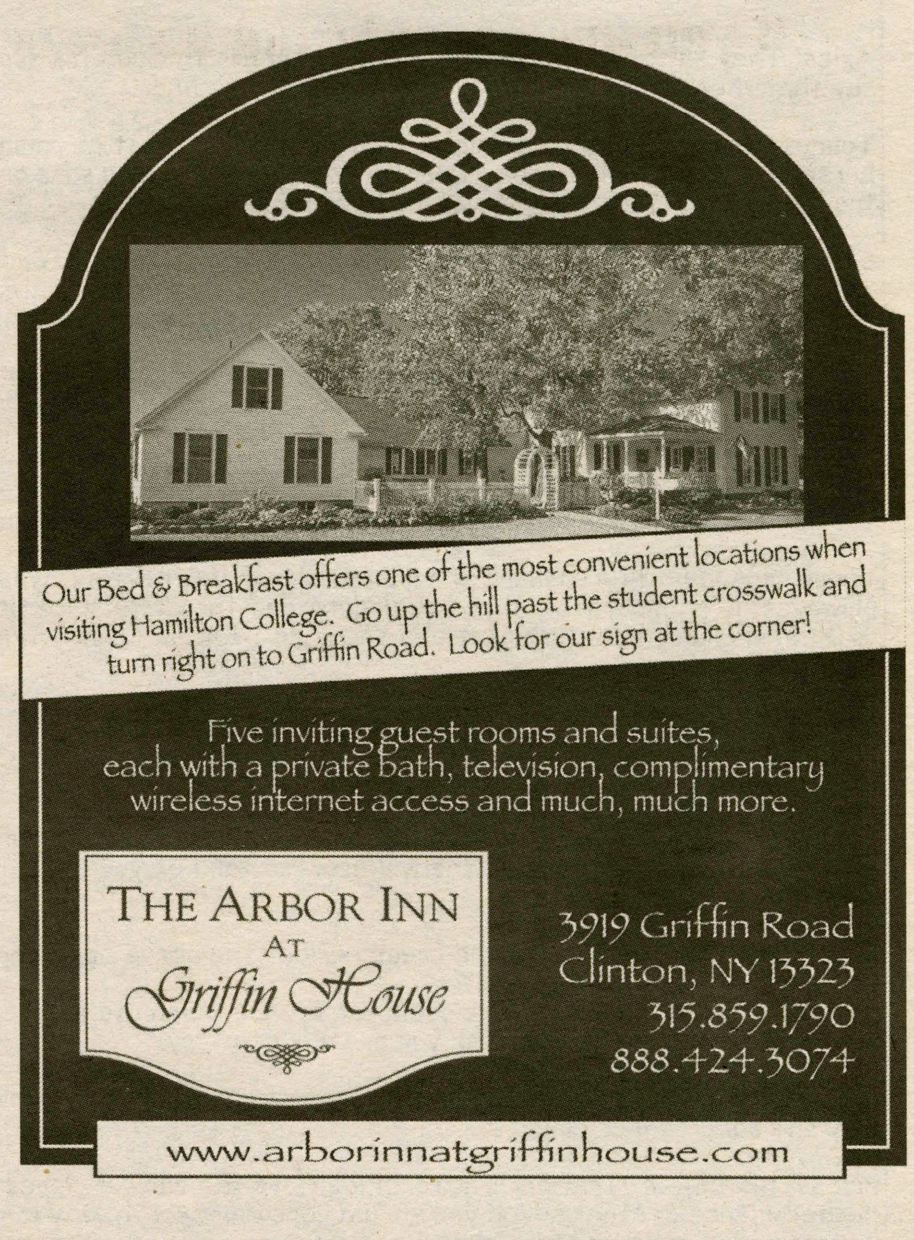
*from **Ghostface**, page*

but [Ghostface] got pissed about the microphone from the beginning which put a damper on the show," said O'Neill. True, the equipment setup in the Annex is not that of Madison Square Garden, and granted, the mics probably did, to put it bluntly, suck. But weren't we all told as toddlers to just work with what you got, and push through the slip-ups? Whatever happened to maintaining that stage-smile despite the mistakes? Ghostface must not have learned in kindergarten how to fake it, because ten minutes into the show—and 30 minutes in and 45 minutes in—he stopped his already sub-par performance to passionately criticize the failing mics.

All in all though, the show was, well, fun, more because the performer was famous and the crowd was excited than because the quality was high. "It was great to see a legend…that I've been listening to since I was 12. The concert wasn't the best performance-wise, but it was a good hip-hop show," said Mandela. "It was great hearing many songs, considering I am a Wu Tang fan, but I did expect much more from Ghost. [I expected] a better performance," added Byron Johnson '09. But, according to one member of the Class of 2009, the show "was short" and the performance questionable, "but it was kind of dope."

That works, I guess.





Hamilton College Blood Drive

Sponsored by Theta Delta Chi and the Wellness Program

Friday, February 13th, 11:30am-5:30pm in the Fitness Center
To register for an appointment, go to Blood Drive
We need double-red donors @ 11:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 4:30!
For more information contact Dave Thompson at 859-4754

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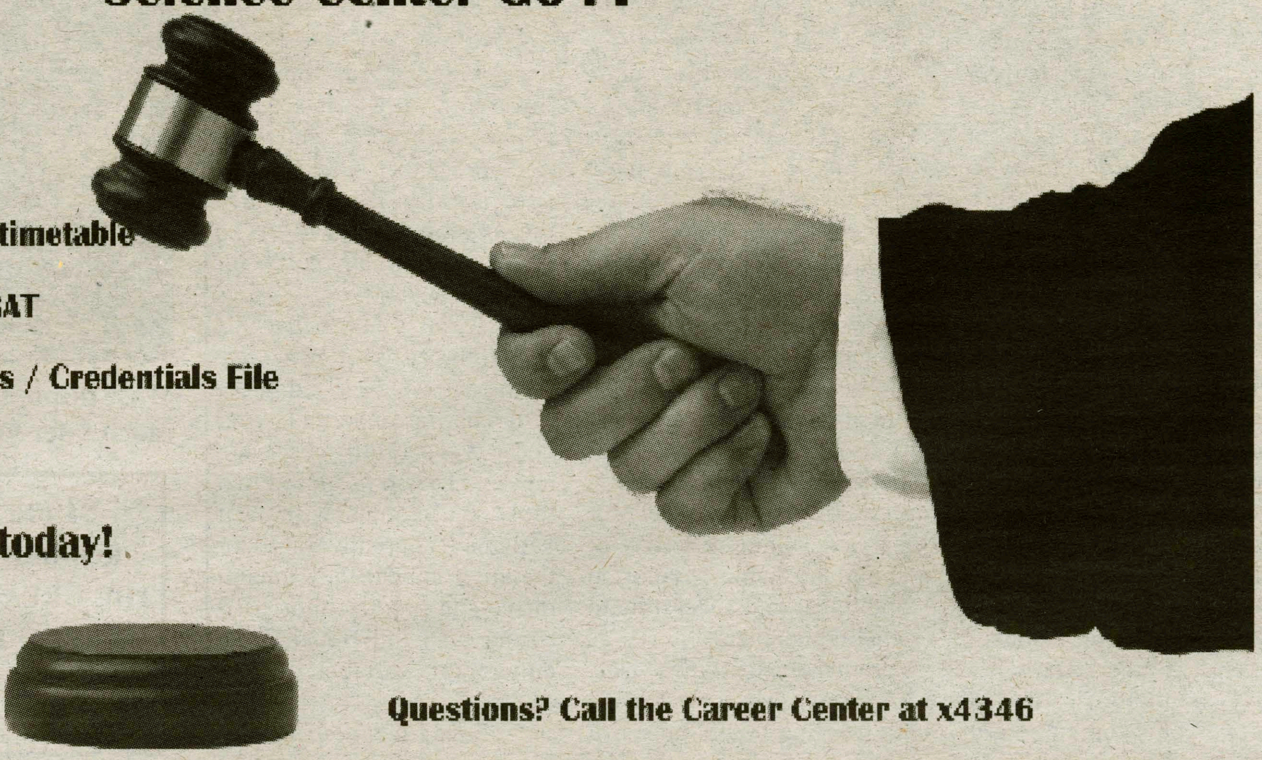


Questions? Call the Career Center at x4346

RecycleMania 2009 Off to an Impressive Start

Best-Ever Hamilton Performance is the Goal; Effort Extends Beyond Students to Faculty, Staff

*from **RecycleMania**, page 1*

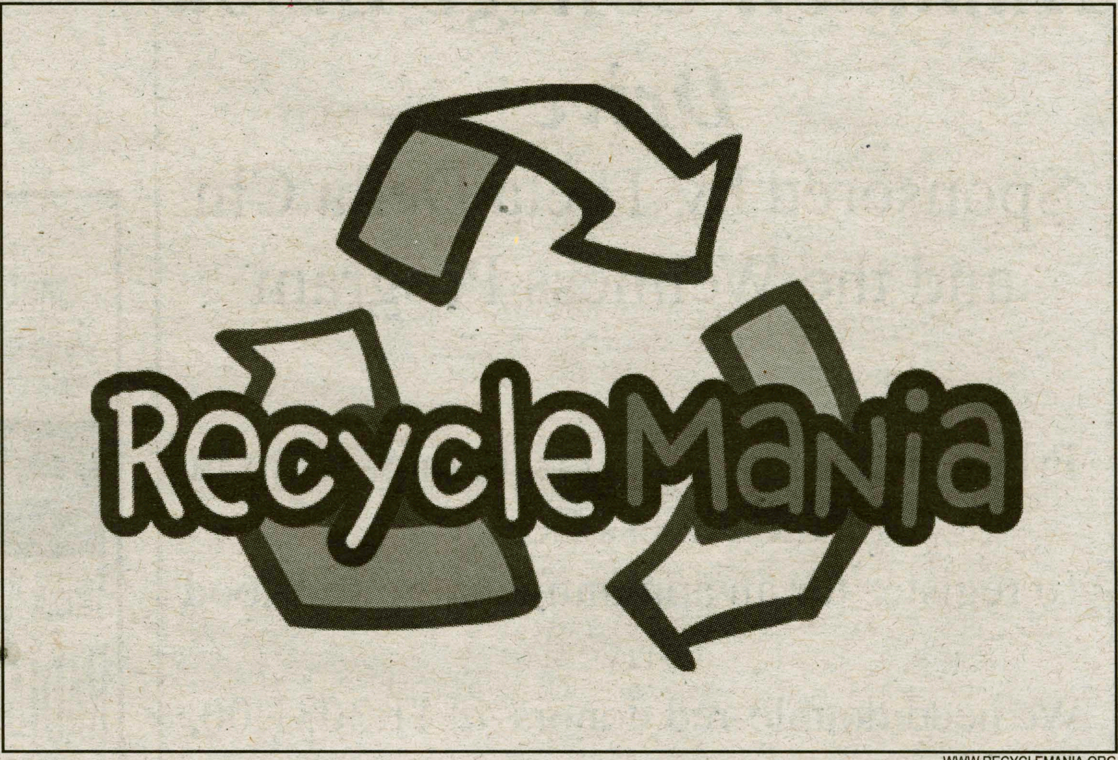
Career Center, the Elihu Root House, and the Mail Center have already signed the pledge and the agreement is being circulated in the Science Center, the Burke Library, Root Hall, the Kirner-Johnson Building, the Bristol Campus Center and the Christian A. Johnson Building.

Another goal is to reduce organic wastes such as food waste. Although the recent "Taste, Don't Waste" program was sponsored by Bon Appetit and not the Recycling Task Force and was unrelated to RecycleMania, Hawkridge emphasized the fact that the concepts put forward in "Taste, Don't Waste" are effective ways of making Hamilton a more eco-friendly campus.

"Not using a tray is a waste reducer," he said. "Taking only what you think you'll eat and making that extra trip, that is a waste reducer." Organic wastes are particularly important given Hamilton's lack of a compost system. Recent efforts to plan the construction of a compost center have fallen victim to the general economic downturn.

The RecycleMania competition does not calculate rankings simply on the amount recycled or thrown away since different colleges have different numbers of students. Therefore, the competition factors recycling to waste ratios (called "deviation") on a per capita basis. Nevertheless, certain differences still apply between campuses. Colleges with a composting facility are at a major disadvantage. Also, colleges from states with cash redemption options on cans and bottles such as New York are at a disadvantage because students and staff may choose to recycle these cans independently of the school in order to get money for them.

Hamilton's numbers in particular are difficult to pinpoint week-to-week. To reduce College costs and greenhouse gas emissions, paper and cardboard waste are only delivered to the Oneida-Herkimer Waste and Recycling Facility every other week. Bottles, cans, and other container group items are delivered weekly, as is non-recyclable waste. Therefore, Hamilton reports its waste every week but its full recycling every two weeks, leading to spikes and valleys in the RecycleMania numbers which do not reflect the actual amount the College is recycling.



WWW.RECYCLEMANIA.ORG

Hawkridge and the Recycling Task Force have set a goal of reaching a new personal best cumulative recycling rate in this year's competition. The current best for Hamilton is 27.91 percent from 2005. This year's goal looks feasible; in the second week of the 2009 competition, Hamilton had a cumulative recycling rate of 30.25 percent.

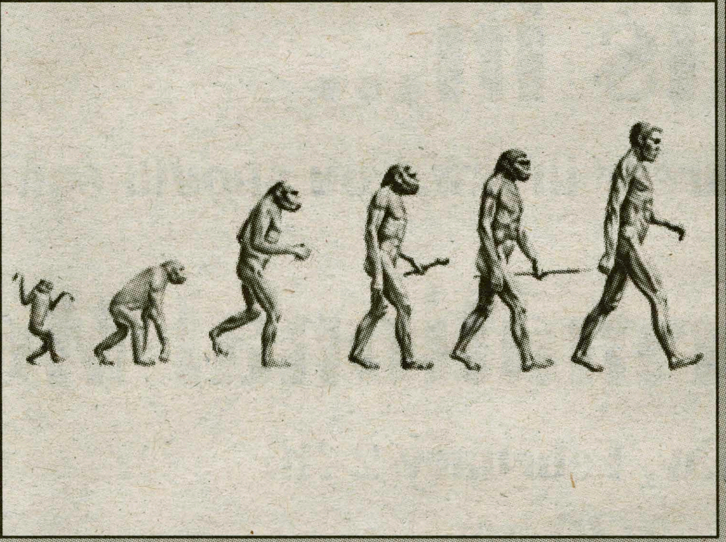
Despite the many difficulties in increasing recycling rates on campus, including the lack of a compost system, confusing policies for quantifying waste, and the hundreds of ingrained habits in students, faculty and staff that create vast amounts of unnecessary waste every day, the Recycling Task Force will not give up, and competitions and initiatives like RecycleMania will continue to work on increasing recycling and limiting waste on college campuses. Describing the experience of the Recycling Task Force, Hawkridge says, "It's been uphill all the way." Nevertheless, RecycleMania 2009's blazing start on the Hill suggests the community is ready to continue the race.

Science Explained: Evolution

by Nicholas Berry '09
Science & Technology Sr. Writer

Yesterday was "Darwin Day," an international celebration of the 200th anniversary of English naturalist Charles Darwin's birth. Throughout the week, hundreds of events across the globe, including several hosted by Hamilton's own Biology Department, were held in honor of Darwin. Why all the fuss about this man? The reason is Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859), which first proposed the theory of biological evolution through the process of natural selection. *Origin* ranks among the most important books ever published because, as geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky put it, "nothing makes sense in biology except in the light of evolution." Indeed, overwhelming empirical evidence has shown that evolution is the central organizing principle behind all the diversity of life on Earth. Origin, therefore, is perhaps alone among scientific works in that it not only remains scientifically relevant after 150 years of intense scrutiny, but it also provides a world-view with deep predictive and explanatory power.

Despite the importance of Darwin's idea to biology, it is not a difficult concept to grasp. Rather, Darwin's idea is simplicity itself – so simple, that his contemporary Thomas Henry Huxley, upon reading an advance copy of Origin, exclaimed, "How stupid of me not to have thought of that!" Despite the simplicity of evolution, it nonetheless ties together disparate biological facts into a single unifying framework. Even the latest and most unanticipated discoveries in biology – things Darwin could not have predicted – are still accommodated by evolutionary biology. Furthermore, unlike other similarly revolutionary ideas like relativity or quantum mechanics, evolution is both clear and accessible to a general audience.



WWW.YESHIVA.EDU

This famous image of the evolution of man is indicative of society's rampant oversimplification of the concept.

So, what exactly was Darwin's idea? Darwin proposed that all living things on Earth are descended from one or a few original life forms. He did not presume to know how life itself first arose. Once life began, however, Darwin argued that organisms slowly began to change and diversify for two reasons: First, all things vary (we now know that this variation arises from genetic mutations); and second, these differences are inherited. After decades of carefully observing nature, Darwin proposed that those individuals with trait variants that are favorable for the environment they inhabit thrive and produce more offspring than individuals with unfavorable variants.

*see **Evolution**, page 18*

WWW.LIB.UMN.ORG

Wase disposal is unnecessary when recycling can be much safer for the environment. So don't waste, recycle!

> "I feel that my own good country robbed me of the chance for some of the great experiences that I would have liked to live through."
>
> ~ Percy Julian

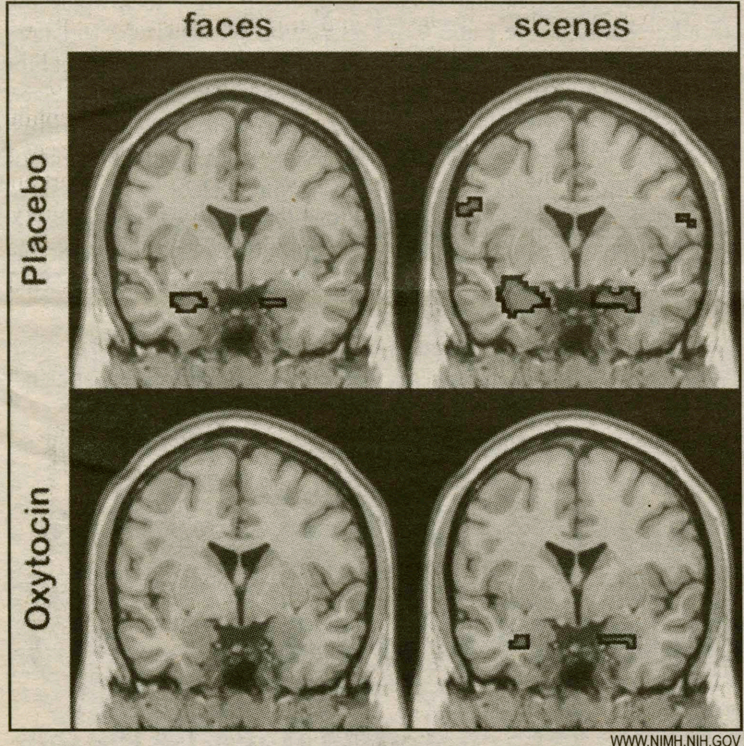
Love Potions Are Projected to Exist

*from **Buffergram**, page 16*

Dr. Larry Sherman, an Oregon Health & Science University neurologist who focuses on the relationships amongst music, love and the brain. "The human brain is a little more complicated than the vole brain. And I'm grateful for that."

Returning the focus to males, the principal hormone scientists believe responsible for the male's feelings of affection is called vasopressin. When the male voles were injected with vasopressin, they had developed an increased urge for bonding and nesting. Also interesting is the well-cited research that suggests men with a genetic mutation related to this hormone were less likely to get married, and if they did, they were more likely to get divorced. Consequently, though research on vasopressin and humans has not gained as much attention as that of oxytocin, scientists are determined to further explore the possibilities vasopressin may withhold, not only in terms of developing a drug that can be bottled and sold for his and her greater pleasure, but also to learn more about the psychology of male sensitivity and sense of dominance.

Not everyone is pleased to hear the positive outlooks neuroscientists including Young hold with respect to the future of love potions. But this concern is superfluous, for as Young sees it, every catalyst has an anti-catalyst, and the same will be true for love potions, the effects of which can be reversed with anti-love potions. When I asked Raul Patrascu '12 about whether he believed effective love potions will exist in the future, he replied, "No, I don't think so, because love is more than just chemicals, it's magic."



The NMRs above show the reduction in scary faces and scenes in the brain after a person took oxytocin, a hormone also responsible for increased feelings of intimacy.

Black Scientists in History

Dr. Percy Julian, Chemist

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

Just before the turn of the century, Percy Lavon Julian was born in Montgomery, AL. He was a bright student, but at that time the city provided no public education for black students after eighth grade. Nevertheless, he entered DePauw University in Indiana as a "sub-freshman," taking remedial courses. Yet in 1920, he graduated first in his class with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Julian became a chemistry instructor at Fisk University, and in 1923 received an Austin Fellowship in Chemistry and went to Harvard to complete his M.S. He took university teaching positions for a few years before traveling to Austria to obtain his Ph. D in chemistry from the University of Vienna in 1931. He returned to DePauw to continue his research. His original interest was investigating plant products, especially traditional medicinal plants such as the African calabar bean. In 1935, with Josef Pikl, Julian first synthesized from this plant a chemical called physostigmine, or esserine, that could treat the sometimes blinding disease glaucoma by reducing pressure inside the eyeball. This accomplishment gained him international acclaim, but no professorship.

He left academia to become lab director at the Glidden Company. In 1939, a water leak in a tank of purified soybean oil created a strange byproduct, giving Julian a surprise insight: the soy sterol that had been created could be used to manufacture male and female hormones, progesterone and testosterone. Progesterone, would prove useful in treating certain cancers and problem pregnancies. During World War II, Julian developed a foam from soy protein that could put out oil and gas fires; it was quickly adopted by the military.

In 1948, the Mayo Clinic announced the discovery of a compound that relieved rheumatoid arthritis called cortisone. Just a year later, in October 1949, Julian's team created a synthetic cortisone substitute, radically less expensive but just as effective. Natural cortisone had to be extracted from the adrenal glands of oxen and cost hundreds of dollars per drop; Julian's synthetic cortisone was only pennies per ounce.

Julian held more than 100 chemical patents, wrote scores of papers on his work, and received dozens of awards and honorary degrees. He founded Julian Laboratories, Inc., with labs in the U.S. and Mexico (both purchased by Smith Kline French in 1961) and another chemical plant in Guatemala (owned by Upjohn Company since 1961).

By making important medical products plentiful and less expensive, Julian accelerated the research and growth of knowledge about them. His techniques and products led directly to the development of chemical birth control and medicines to suppress the immune system, crucial in performing organ

Dr. Percy Julian in 1954. Julian's advances in chemistry and endocrinology are usually underappreciated today.

Did You Know That? *Wacky Facts: Lovey-Dovey*

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

- 73 percent of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men.

- About one billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

- The first true valentine card was sent by Charles, duke of Orleans, to his wife in 1415 when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

- Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy," on Valentine's Day, 1876.

- Lovebirds are often associated with Valentine's Day. These lovebirds, found in Africa, are brightly colored and sit very close together with their mates, earning them their name.

- Richard Cadbury produced the first box of chocolates for Valentine's Day in the late 1800s.

- The oldest surviving love poem till date is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writing, around 3500 B.C.

- Verona, the Italian city where Shakespeare's play lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters every year sent to Juliet on Valentine's Day.

- About three percent of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets. "I love you, Fido."

- In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

- Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on the Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

- Doctors in the 1800's advised their patients to eat chocolate to cure a broken heart.

- In some countries, young women receive gifts of clothing from suitors. If the gift is kept, it means she has accepted the proposal.

- More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.

- The Taj Mahal at Agra, India is perhaps the most splendid gift of love. It was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beautiful wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

- In the 1600's, even married people took a valentine, and not always their legal other half.

- 15 percent of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

- 189 million stems of roses are sold in the U.S. on Valentine's Day.

- The first commercial Valentine's Day greeting cards produced in the U.S. were created in the 1840s by Esther A. Howland.

- Most men say they prefer to open their Valentine's day presents first thing in the morning. Women on the other hand, like to get and open gifts after a romantic dinner.

- In Medieval times, girls ate unusual foods on St Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future husband.

Buffergram Not Working? Try a Love Potion

WWW.IMEEM.COM

According to neuroscientists, love potions will not just be in fairy tales anymore, and they will contain hormones as intoxicating as aromatic as roses and fine red wine.

by Saad S. Chaudhry '12
Science & Technology Editor

Love, a simply spelt four lettered-word, has captivated the human mind, heart and soul in enormously complex ways. It brings a passionate and emotional Dionysian drunkenness to our mind, balanced with an Apollonian warmth to our hearts that is more comfortable than the sun's breaching rays on a perfect spring day. Thus, it is no surprise that since ancient Greece and its period of contribution to the biological science of botany, humankind has been looking for the ultimate holy-grail in the fuzzy field of love: a love potion (and no, Viagra doesn't count). Today, modern science tells us this breakthrough will soon become a reality.

In an issue of the prominent scientific journal *Nature*, the famed neuroscientist Dr. Larry Young, who has previously researched mammalian bonding and the human's odd enthrallment with breasts, offered some hopeful, as well as fearful news to those interested in the scientific research of love. Young's central thesis is based upon the well-documented theory that love is fired up by a "biochemical chain of events." With that being said, he argued that a critical and natural hormone called oxytocin may catalyze those biological chain of events for females, and a related hormone called vasopressin may do the same for males.

Oxytocin is a hormone that contracts the uterus and allows milk to go down in nursing mothers. It is also active in women during labor and delivery. Young and a team of neuroscientists at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University tested Young's theory with prairie voles, which are mouse-like creatures that are in the minority of less than five percent of mammals that share the human's predisposition to monogamy. When a female prairie vole was artificially injected with oxytocin in the brain, she exhibited neural awards similar to those initiated by nicotine and cocaine. Furthermore, she became quickly attached to the nearest male. Such behavior was precisely what Young required for his theory's experimental confirmation.

"Some of our sexuality has evolved to stimulate that same oxytocin system to create female-male bonds," Young said. He also noted that foreplay and sexual intercourse stimulate some of the same biological systems that are involved in delivery and nursing, which further emphasizes oxytocin's role in love. For instance, oxytocin is also released during a female's orgasm and actually spikes after an orgasm, quite possibly to promote bonding in a post-sexual manner.

Equally intriguing is the role oxytocin may play in explaining the differences between humans and less monogamous mammals in terms of sexuality: most women are interested in having sex even when they are not fertile, and most heterosexual men are attracted to breasts. Young explains more sex and erotic fascination with breasts in monogamous mammals may be due to the firmer long-term addiction monogamous mammals may have with the "cocktail of ancient neuropeptides," including oxytocin. In other words, as mammals such as humans gradually built up their frequency in sex, they felt greater pleasure due to the biological chemicals involved in sex, and they became more addicted to these chemicals, thus causing more eroticism and sexuality.

Experimentation with oxytocin on humans has commenced, and early studies of researchers squirting oxytocin into people's nostrils reveals more enhanced feelings of trust, friendship, and intimacy. Also, couples that were having an argument developed less of a stress hormone called cortisol when their nostrils were sprayed with oxytocin compared to couples who were given a placebo. Lastly, people who were artificially sprayed with oxytocin also exhibited signs of greater confidence, and they were also more willing to trust investors with small amounts of cash. Nonetheless, scientists have concluded that oxytocin in itself is not sufficient for it be acclaimed as an ultimate love potion, at least not on its own.

"To call [oxytocin] a love potion seems like a big stretch,"

see ***Love Potions****, page 17*

Evolution Basics

from ***Science****, page 16*

Through this process of natural selection, advantageous traits will accumulate in successive generations and displace the original traits so that what was once a novel survival strategy becomes the status quo. Over very long periods of time, such changes in a population may lead to the development of an entirely new species. Evolution through natural selection is therefore simply change over time. New forms replace those that came before as the frequency of a certain trait within a population increases in response to natural selection.

Although Darwin's idea is simple, there are some misconceptions of it in the popular consciousness. First, natural selection does not "push" organisms down a particular evolutionary path, as if it has some sort of final outcome for them in mind. It is a blind, unintelligent process without any sort of foresight. A better analogy would be to say that natural selection filters through all available variations so that only beneficial or neutral mutations are passed on to the next generation.

Second, "fitness," as used in evolutionary biology, is the probability of surviving or reproducing in a given environment. It does not mean that one organism has more value than another; rather, it simply means that one organism has a higher chance of survival in one environment than another organism and vice versa. Third, although mutations are random, natural selection itself is, according to Professor of Biology Ernest Williams, "a non-random creative force." Natural selection systemically and predictably "favors" those traits that increase the likelihood of survival and reproduction; there is nothing random about it.

Darwin's theory of evolution provides humankind with more than just a scientific narrative of life's origins and progression. It also yields invaluable technologies, such as improved vaccines and other therapeutic proteins for combating the outbreak and spread of disease. Similarly, it helps us to better appreciate the diversity of the natural world and our place in it. More importantly, evolution is a testament to the power of the scientific method.

Recyclemania 2009 Results Through Week Two (Jan. 31)

Grand Champion:

New York Schools:	*Cumul. Recycling Rate (%)*
1. Onondoga Community	**55.23%**
2. RIT	**44.11%**
3. SUNY Binghamton	**35.71%**
4. Ithaca College	**32.15%**
5. University of Rochester	**30.65%**
6. Hamilton College	***30.25%***
7. Bard College	**25.58%**
8. Vassar College	**24.24%**
9. New York University	**23.70%**
10. Hobart William Smith	**17.91%**
11. SUNY Buffalo	**16.03%**
12. Skidmore College	**11.28%**
13. Union College	**8.02%**
14. SUNY Albany	**7.45%**

Hamilton Week 3: 16.99%

Results from recyclemania.org and Recycling Task Force

Targeted Material - Paper:

New York Schools:	*Cumulative Paper Recycled (lbs./person)*
1. University of Rochester	**3.15**
2. Onondaga Community	**2.03**
3. Hamilton College	***1.85***
4. SUNY Binghamton	**1.06**
5. Ithaca College	**0.94**
6. Vassar College	**0.75**
7. Union College	**0.37**
8. Bard College	**0.32**
9. Saint John Fisher	**0.26**
10. SUNY Buffalo	**0.25**
11. SUNY New Paltz	**0.03**

Hamilton's National Rankings:

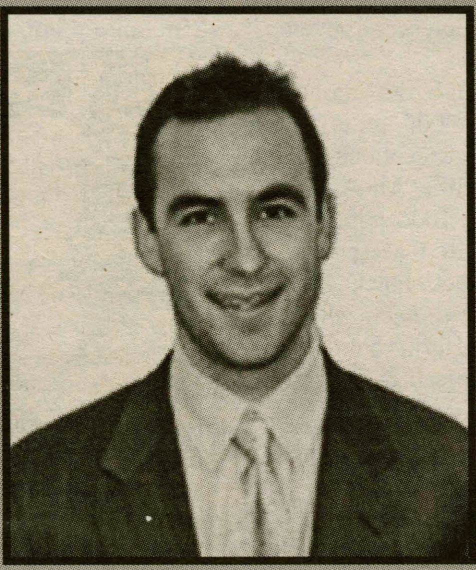
Grand Champion: #63/176
Per Capita Classic: #4/247
Targeted Material - Paper: #15/166
Bottles and Cans: #33/164

HAMILTON ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Chris Lorenc '10

- **Age:** 22

- **Hometown:** Clifton, NJ


WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

- **Sport:** Ice Hockey

- **Position:** Forward

- **Years playing:** 14

- **Claim to fame:** Chris ranks fifth in the NESCAC in points with 25 total. He had two goals and one assist in the Continentals' past two games

- **Proudest athletic moment:** Winning the state championship at Clifton High School as the underdog team. It was the school's first state title.

Email Abby Perer '09 (aperer) with your suggestions for Athete of the Week!

- **Most embarrassing athletic moment:** Playing peewee hockey in Lake Placid where the 1980 U.S. Olympic team won gold. Chris was so excited to get onto the ice that he left the soakers on his skates, and when he ran out onto the ice he fell on his face.

- **Favorite pro athlete:** Joe Sakic of the Colorado Avalanche

- **Favorite sports movie:** *Miracle*

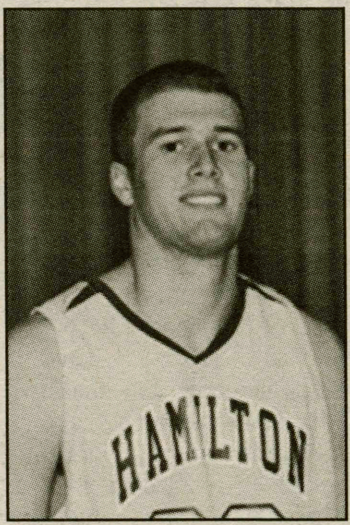
- **Favorite music:** Bon Jovi and The Boss

- **Major:** Chemistry

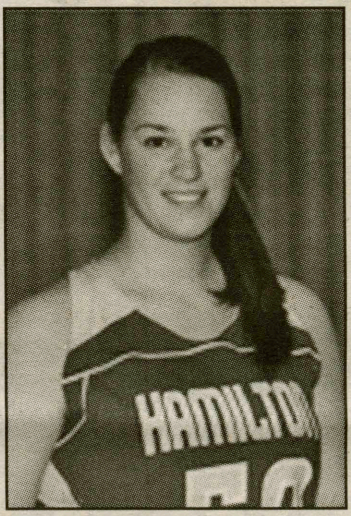
- **Hobbies:** Golf and Tennis

- **Next game:** 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 13 at New England College

Hamilton Stars Top The Liberty League



Patrick Sullivan '12
Co-Rookie of the Week
Men's Basketball



Sydney Fasulo '09
Co-Forward of the Week
Women's Basketball

Peter Kosgei '10
Track Performer of the Week

Continentals @ Home

Fri.	Feb. 13	W. Basketball	6 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 14	W. Basketball	2 p.m.
Sat.	Feb. 14	M. Basketball	4 p.m.
Tues.	Feb. 17	M. Basketball	6 p.m.
Tues.	Feb. 17	M. Basketball	8 p.m.

Sports Writers Wanted

If you want journalism experience, a resume boost, or if you're just a know-it-all sports fan...

You would be a great addition to the Spectator Sports Writing Staff!

e-mail kgreenou or dhagemei for details

A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY | Volume XLIX Number 16

SPECTATOR SPORTS

February 12, 2009

Senior Swimmers and Divers Finish Strong

By Kate Greenough '09
Sports Editor

In an interview with ESPN last year, Olympic superstar Michael Phelps said, "Swimming is normal for me. I'm relaxed. I'm comfortable, and I know my surroundings. It's my home." This sentiment is shared by many members of the men's and women's swimming and diving teams. For the seniors in the group, the conclusion of the season is akin to leaving a family and home in which they have settled for four long winters on the Hill.

In the Hamilton community, it is easy to spot the swimmers: apart from the wet-haired, tray-toting unit that surrounds several Commons tables in the evening, just keep your eye out for the few students who look tanned and toned among the winter-paled others battling Christmas cookie-induced extra body insulation.

After a training trip to Puerto Rico over winter break, the women came back to win three out of their five dual meets, and the men notched two additional wins in the regular season. Looking forward to the NESCAC finals, and looking back on tremendous careers, Eve Stevens '09 and Alex Paridon '09 reflect on the strides the teams have made and how they have grown as members and leaders of the teams.

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Alex Paridon '09

"We lost a lot of All-American swimmers before my freshman year so the team was the weakest it's been in a long time when I first arrived. We had only about 10 men on the team so it was hard for us to compete against a lot of teams, especially the stronger NESCAC programs. Over the four years I've been at Hamilton we've gained a lot of talented swimmers and have improved our standings in the NESCAC conference. It's been a real pleasure to watch the team progress and develop," said Paridon.

Although the classes of 2004 and 2005 graduated a handful of exceptional talent, standouts like All-American backstroker Todd Johnson '08, Paridon, Jared Mereness '10 and Chris DeConinck '11 are a few of the swimmers who have helped build up the program and establish the team as a force to be reckoned with in the NESCAC and Liberty Leagues.

Stevens, a leading breaststroker for the women's team, looks back on her individual improvement through the years.

"Throughout my college career, I have fluctuated between focusing on having fun and being really serious about training. I tried to do every little thing right. Now, my senior year, I feel more relaxed about the flow of the season, less disappointed with bad mid-season swims and more excited about just the day-in and day-out of being a part of this team," she said.

However, as the season winds down, Stevens, along with her senior teammates (Stefanie Capizzi, Beth Beaury, Deanna Edwards, Maura Donovan, Jason Brown, David Schlifka, and Paridon) has to face the end of her swimming career.

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Eve Stevens '09

"Swimming has been a part of my daily routine for over a decade. I've spent 2-4 hours a day at least swimming or doing something to improve my swimming. I can't imagine my life without it, so I'm not going to until it happens," Stevens said.

"More importantly," she adds, "the teammates I have found at Hamilton have been the perfect reward for sticking with it for so many years. They are what I will miss most and what I'll never be able to replace." Paridon has similar sentiments, although he sees swimming as a part of his future life "in some way."

Both the men's and women's teams have much to look forward to. The deep rosters are due to a talented number of underclassmen, and Stevens hints that there are a lot of fast recruits on their way to competing in a Hamilton suit. With first-years like Megan Gibbons for the women and Michael Brennan '12 leading the men with multiple first-place finishes, the Continentals are rebuilding their dominance.

On Feb. 27 several swimmers will compete in the NESCAC Championships at Wesleyan College in Middletown, CT. If you want an excuse for a road trip, head over to support the Hamilton swimmers. If you can't make it, make sure you congratulate the seniors and members of the '08-'09 squad; they've come a long way.

Track Makes Strides at Syracuse Invitational

By James Russell '09 and Scott Bickard '11
Sports Writers

Call it Livestrong, Headstrong, or Applewagonstrong. Whichever way you put it, the Hamilton track team is looking strong after a very successful weekend at Syracuse.

"We're in much better shape than last year at this point " [referring to the runners] said Keith Gross '09, who is running with the edge only a senior can possess.

"Looking back, last year's track season was kind of a disappointment for us," says boy wonder Devon Lynch '11.

If they continue to build on performances like Saturday's, the season could start to get interesting.

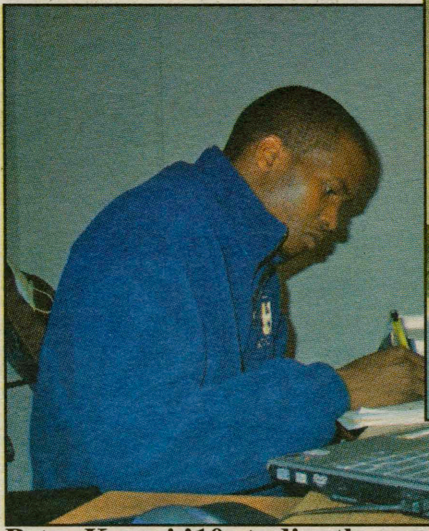
One thing to note about the Syracuse meet: no clocks. Picture playing a basketball game without a scoreboard. Then picture dribbling a ball without the dimples and those encircling black lines and you'll get a sense of what not having a clock means in a track race. The lack of a clock and overcrowded heats played an important role in some races, most notably the 800, where only a handful of runners broke two minutes.

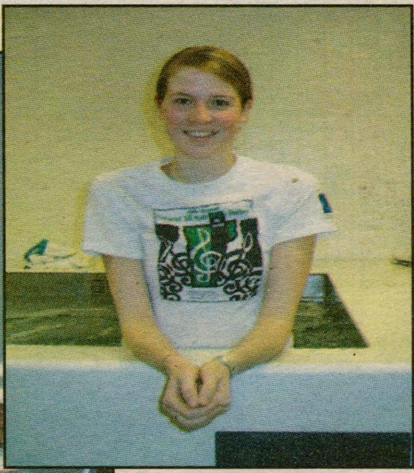
Besides the tough going in the 800, the absence of a clock may have created, in some races, the reverse "no burden" effect that sometimes helps runners focus more on their bodies than the time. The men's mile clearly demonstrated this effect. Three Hamilton runners broke 4:40 for the first time this season, with Bill Reid '10 using all his weight to edge out Gross by eight-tenths of a second to run a 4:34. Lynch used a nice ending kick to trio the group with a 4:39.

Genevieve Flanders '09 clocked an 11:01 3K, setting another personal record for the season. It's only a matter of time before she schedules a luncheon with the Sub-11 Club.

In the men's 3K, Peter Kosgei '10 put on of his most exciting performances since his 4:03 mile chase in the Distance Medley Relay (DMR) last year. Competing against Daniel Busby of Syracuse, one of the top Big East runners, Kosgei used his sub 50 second 400M speed to run a 4:27 opening mile. He finished in 8:19, almost 15 seconds better than any Division III runner this year. After a small hiatus after his successful XC season, it seems, what he calls his "raw ability," has not disappeared. The Kenyan Prodigy seems to discover new and deeper talent every race, making him very, very dangerous.

Grebey's Golden Spike


PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES RUSSELL '09
Peter Kosgei '10 studies the competition


Lauren Peters-Collaer '11 ices her legs after a hard practice.

James "Rusty" Russell's '09 following of understudies Kevin Graepel '10 and Pat Mcnally '12 both came close to personal best heights. James "Rusty" sat out of the meet to give his legs an extra week of rest for next week's Liberty League Championships at St. Lawrence.

Liz Wahl '10 continued to mix it up at the top of the pack in her 27.36 second 200M. Doubling her distance, Tory Grieves '12 proved her speed with a 64 second 400. Likewise, fellow first-year Caitlin Hult '12 showed a nice end kick with a time of just over 65 seconds. Another new addition to the team, Lauren "P-C" Peters-Collaer '11 had a nice day, this time displaying her jumping ability to the team with a sixth place finish in the high jump (4'11).

Speaking of red heads, it appears Sarah Caney '09 enjoyed her mile last week just a little more than she's been letting on, choosing to enter the event once again at 'Cuse. Once again, the results are encouraging. A two second improvement should provide a nice boost to her endurance in the 800M.

Akilah Bond '09 battled many jumpers to a second place finish. On the men's side of the three-jump, Tidelco Ductan '09 took first place in 13.49m (45 feet). The Haiti native didn't have his best stuff, but didn't need it to finish on top of a very competitive field. In more field news, Josh Orndorff '11 threw for 13th and 21st place finishes in the shot and weight throw, a little down from his last week's performances. Orndorff will be looking for some far throws this upcoming Saturday's meet.

Golden Spike Award Winners

Men's Track - ***Peter Kosgei:*** Although we wanted to revoke Kosgei's golden spike eligibility (to spread the wealth a little), his performance was too impressive to overlook. Expected to be out of shape, Kosgei proved the field wrong in smashing his own personal-best in the 3K.

Women's Track - ***Lauren Peters-Collier:*** As mentioned before, the sophomore had her finest jump of the season. As not mentioned before, if she continues to develop she will provide a nice 1-2 punch with Bond in the jumps this season. Plus, she's a red head.